



CCB:RMB

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. Tamm

Re: ~~BRITISH TAMPERING WITH BUREAU POUCHES~~
FROM LONDON AND LISBON

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____

Mr. Frederick B. Lyon of the State Department called the writer and stated that on Thanksgiving Day he had been called to the Bureau and certain envelopes had been exhibited to him which indicated the British were gaining access to pouches coming from London and Lisbon and were tampering with them. He stated at that time that Mr. Tamm and you had kindly offered to give the State Department what assistance was needed in putting an end to this trouble. Mr. Lyon stated that although he was very much concerned over the fact that the Bureau's material had been opened, still he felt that the problem was even greater and extended to the possibility that all State Department communications over the world are possibly being treated the same way. He requested the writer to call at his office and discuss the situation with him.

In accordance with Mr. Lyon's request, the writer did call at his office and was advised that the person responsible for all communications going by diplomatic pouch was Mr. Monnett B. Davis, Chief of the Division of Foreign Service Administration. Mr. Lyon requested that the writer accompany him to Mr. Davis' office which was done. At that time the general situation was discussed and Mr. Davis called into the conference Mr. Schoenrich and Mr. Wilson. Mr. Schoenrich is an assistant to Mr. Davis and Mr. Wilson is in charge of all Trans-Atlantic couriers for the northern routes. Mr. Davis stated that the pouch numbers which were supplied by the Bureau as having been definitely tampered with had been traced and it had been found the pouches had been carried by military personnel, one being a commissioned Army officer, one a commissioned Marine officer and one a noncommissioned Marine. He stated, however, that the material now being transported between England and the United States is of such a volume that sometime as many as four pouches are necessary. Only one of these can be kept in personal possession of the courier and three have to be carried separately. He stated that the vouchers which accompany each pouch should indicate whether certain material has been carried in the hand-carried pouch or whether it was in the other pouches carried in the pouch compartments of the planes. However, a careful check at the State Department reveals that due to gross carelessness both at Lisbon and London, the vouchers were not kept and it was not possible to determine whether the Bureau pouches had been in the hand pouch or not. Two of these suspected courier runs had come by clipper via Lisbon and the other had come by bomber directly from the British Isles,



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58 JAN 17 1944

and for that reason Mr. Davis felt that the tampering was made possible probably due to either carelessness or collusion at the mail room in London. He did not feel that the tampering was made with the knowledge and consent of the couriers.

Mr. Davis outlined that he intended to put into operation more stringent security regulations for the pouches than exist at the present time but anticipated trouble, particularly at London, because he said he had found that in the older embassies the men in charge were too inclined to feel secure without reason.

Mr. Davis stated that he felt to secure a solution to this trouble and also to prevent further trouble, it would be necessary for the State Department to enlist the services of the Bureau. Mr. Davis requested that an experienced Agent be designated to assist in carrying the mail between Washington and London, and also to assist in making a survey of the mail room facilities in London. He said that this Agent would be designated as an Assistant Communications Officer of the State Department and would thereby be accepted without any suspicion arising as to his true identity.

Mr. Davis advised that in the near future Mr. Wilson will proceed to London with the pouch and that before he does, he would like to have Wilson given instruction at the Bureau in known methods of securing access to pouches and in opening them after access is gained. Mr. Wilson advised the writer later that he has to make a trip to New York for several days to turn his office there over to another man, and on approximately December 20 will return to Washington. Unless advised to the contrary, the writer will accompany Mr. Wilson to the Laboratory and confer about this matter with Mr. Appel.

Mr. Davis also requested that a Bureau Laboratory expert be loaned to the State Department to work for approximately two weeks in the mail room here in Washington to observe the mail as it comes in. The writer advised Mr. Davis that the examination of documents for tampering of this type was a very technical matter and could be done properly only in a Laboratory, and for this reason it would not appear justified to assign a person to this position in their mail room. However, Mr. Davis was advised that if the covers of this material were carefully removed and furnished to the writer, a Laboratory examination would be made of them to determine if they had been opened.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the writer's recommendation that the State Department request for an Agent to assist in the courier run and to assist in making a survey of the London mail room be acceded to. Since this Agent can use the cover of an Assistant Communications Officer, it will excite less curiosity within the Embassy in London. It is believed that if Cimperman or Thurston attempted to make this survey, it would become quickly known that something serious is suspected and perhaps the inquiry would then become impossible because of the suspicion of the persons responsible for the tampering.

Respectfully,

G. C. Burton

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



CAR:RB

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

December 10, 1943

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: Security of Mail

There were examined envelopes registered numbers 8235, 2945 and 2944, received from the office of Mr. Burton, the latter two of which came from Lisbon and the first from London. The wax seals appear to have been repaired by an impression from plaster of Paris rather than from a metal seal. One remaining seal on the envelope from London was in better condition. The outer seals on the ends of the flaps were broken off as has been found with other seals in a similar place. It appears to be useless to put seals at these places.

The envelopes from Lisbon are bound with scotch tape. They apparently were not tamper-proofed, for which reason they could easily have been opened and resealed. There is no evidence to confirm that this has been done, aside from the condition of the wax seals.

Similarly, the tamper-proofed envelope from London is messy in appearance and there has been some splitting of the fibre of the paper on one of the seams. The tamper-proofing evidently consisted of adding additional glue plus the use of formaldehyde, and the outside bears the marks of the ironing of the additional glue and of handling; all of which may have come from the tamper-proofing operation.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

65-48647-9
F B I

21 JAN 11 1944

Best Copy

FOR DEFENSE



BUY

UNITED STATES

SAVINGS

STAMP

108-26-2010

108-26-2010

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DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CAA:RB

Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 10, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: ~~X~~ Security of Mail

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

An examination was made of Registered Envelope #9024 from London. This envelope has three wax seals. The two on the outer edges of the flaps being broken probably through handling. The remaining seal on the center flap is in good condition. The flaps have been processed and additional glue and the marks of the iron are apparent; all of which apparently came in the preparation of the envelope. There appears to be no evidence of tampering.

A similar observation may be made of Envelope Registered #9084 from London. This has a strip of wide manila paper laid over the upper flap and glued down by the use of formaldehyde. Evidently, this was not properly done as it was possible to pull up this paper without tearing.

A similar statement may be made of Envelope Registered #9085 from London which has a strip of manila paper over the upper flap on the outside and under the one seal. This strip appears to tear when an attempt is made to remove it. It is believed, however, that it should be placed on the inside as indicated in a suggestion in another memorandum.

These two envelopes are transmitted herewith in order that they may be returned to London. The object in this is for the person who prepared the envelopes to examine the seals to see if they can remember whether they are in the same condition as when mailed. The remainder of the envelopes are being retained.

Respectfully,
[Signature]
C. A. Appel

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DATE 08-20-2010

58 JAN 5 1944

Mr. Tolson ✓
 Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
 Mr. Clegg ✓
 Mr. Coffey ✓
 Mr. Glavin ✓
 Mr. Ladd ✓
 Mr. Nichols ✓
 Mr. Rosen ✓
 Mr. Tracy ✓
 Mr. Carson ✓
 Mr. Hendon ✓
 Mr. Mumford ✓
 Mr. Harbo ✓
 Mr. Starke ✓
 Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Mr. Nease ✓
 Miss Beahm ✓
 Miss Gandy ✓

GHB:MCB

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE December 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: Handling of State Department
 Pouches in Transatlantic Flight

The purpose of this memorandum is to set out the information which came to the writer's attention while assigned to London in an undercover capacity concerning the handling of diplomatic pouches. The writer made both the trip to and from England by air, having flown to England by American Export Airlines and returned by Pan American Airlines. A courier with State Department pouches was aboard on each of these trips and the information in this memorandum is a result of observation on these trips as well as at the American Embassy in London.

I have been told that the regular State Department employees carry the pouches in the Western Hemisphere, but that United States Marines who can carry guns pose as State Department employees in civilian clothes and carry the pouches in transatlantic service. I have heard rumors that some of this is handled by the United States Army, but as to this I am not certain.

There are usually several pouches on any given flight. The courier carries one pouch along with him and has this bag either in his hands or near him at all times and carries it with him when he leaves the plane. It is my impression that the pouch which the courier carries contains the airgrams and other highly confidential material. The other pouches are apparently carried with the other baggage out of sight of the courier and regular passengers.

When there is an overnight lay-over of the plane at any place or a transfer from plane to plane or plane to train, the courier is met by a member of the United States armed services, or, in neutral countries such as Ireland and Portugal, by an officer of the American Embassy, and the pouches are kept either under military guard or at the Embassy during this lay-over. It is my impression that the pouches, other than the one that the courier carries, stay on board the plane when there is a short lay-over of three or four hours for refueling purposes, as there frequently is on the Pan American southern or winter route. What happens to the pouches other than the one the courier carries at British ports such as Bermuda and Port of Spain, Trinidad, is not known. It is possible that there may be carelessness in handling them at one of these places, but it would seem that the pouches other than the one the courier carries in hand, are most accessible to the British while they are in Ireland and England. In order to facilitate explanation, the flight stops on the two trips made by me are set out hereafter.

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 DATE 08-20-2010

(INFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM NOT TO BE USED TO FILED OR TO FILED)

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

The trip to England was made by American Export Airlines which flew from New York City to Bermuda and then after an overnight lay-over flew non-stop to Foyens, Ireland. From Foyens the regular passengers went by motorbus to Limerick, Ireland, where a British Overseas Airways Corporation plane was taken to Bristol, England. At Bristol a special train was boarded which took the passengers to London.

The return to the United States was made via Pan American Airways as follows: special train from London Airways House to Poole, England; BOAC flying boat from Poole to Foyens, Ireland, where a Pan American Clipper was boarded for the flight from Foyens to Lisbon to Dakar, French West Africa, to Natal, Belem, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, and New York City.

If Bureau mail were in the pouches not in the courier's hands en route to England, it is pointed out that such mail was on board a British plane for several hours between Limerick, Ireland, and Bristol, England and that for several hours thereafter it was on board a special train between Bristol and London. Similarly, if Bureau mail was placed in a pouch other than that carried by the courier when being sent to America, it traveled unguarded for approximately two and one-half hours from London to Poole on a British special train and then on BOAC plane from Poole to Foyens for approximately three hours. The rest of the trip it was on board United States planes and, as I have pointed out, it is not known what protection is given the pouch at British control ports along the route.

Pouches are stored in the "strong room" in London while awaiting shipment or when they arrive at odd hours at the Embassy. The Embassy is under military guard and it seems unlikely that the sealed pouches are tampered with.

Agent A. M. Thurston has discussed with me several times the presence of British subjects in the mail room in the London Embassy where Bureau sealed envelopes are handled to be placed in the pouch.

My movements as a clerk in the Embassy were quite limited and I was able to see little of the mail room. As I have pointed out in the general memorandum on my assignment, it is believed that there is a general laxness on the part of the officers around the Embassy in safeguarding confidential code information so that it will not get into British hands. At the present time the mail room is under different supervision than the code rooms and it is not known what security precautions are taken to guard the mail, but it is doubtful if the mail room is as security conscious as the code room. It is pointed out that while it would not have been easy to have pilfered code material from the code room because it was checked daily, much is left to the integrity of individuals working in either a code room or a mail room.

*A very loose system -
Discusses with Snyders in
Bethel's office.*

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn H. Bethel
Glenn H. Bethel

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CAA:CHM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 6, 1943

CC-287a

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

RE: TAMPERING DIPLOMATIC POUCHES

The attached envelope from Mr. Thurston in London, #72425, Registered #8834, was examined. Evidence of tampering was found. The envelope is transmitted herewith.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

Attachment

ADDENDUM: (CAA;chm 12/11/43) The seal appears to have been reheated and shaped filling in a tear in the paper and running down the crack of the flaps under the edge. It is possible to open the flaps which may have been opened and resealed with paste.



CAA

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

December 10, 1943

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

Re: Diplomatic Pouch Mail
Cuba - Administrative

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Asers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahn _____
Miss Gandy _____

Reference is made to the letter from the Office of the Legal Attache, Habana, Cuba, dated November 27, 1943, with which was submitted the evidence listed below:

- Q57 Envelope addressed to "Mr. Horton R. Telford, The American Embassy, Havana, Cuba" return address "Post Office Box 6198, Apex Station, 813 Market Space, N.W., Washington, D. C." Personal and Confidential Via Diplomatic Air Pouch Official., bearing the number 59899 Registered.
- Q58 Envelope addressed to "Mr. Horton R. Telford, The American Embassy, Havana, Cuba" return address "Post Office Box 6198, Apex Station, 813 Market Space, N. W., Washington, D. C." Personal and Confidential Diplomatic Air Pouch Official., bearing the number 59826 Registered.

An examination was made of the envelopes and the conclusion reached that they were opened and resealed. The paper of the flaps is wrinkled, smeared with adhesive and uneven adhesive has been added under the flaps.

In this connection, as previously suggested, it may be desired to submit such envelopes for tamper-proofing before they are mailed from the Bureau.



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DATE 10-20-2018 BY SP5 BTJ/STW
memo to Ladd
bwd 12/15/43

21 JAN 1 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED
12-4-43
MP

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: DIPLOMATIC POUCH MAIL
Cuba - Administrative

File # 64-4524
Lab. # D-9573

Examination requested by: Office of the Legal Attache, Habana, Cuba

Date of reference communication. Letter 11-27-43

Date received: 12-4-43

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by: Appel

*12/7 Both Q57 & 58 have appearance
of steaming, under flaps are wrinkled
adhesive appears partly dissolved from moisture
and crumbling shortly after moisture adhesive
added under flaps*

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q57 Env add to "Mr. Horton R. Telford, The American Embassy, Havana, Cuba"
return address "Post Office Box 6198, Apex Station, 813 Market Space, N. W.,
Washington, D. C." Personal and Confidential Via Diplomatic Air Pouch Official.,
bearing the number 59899 REGISTERED.
- Q58 Env add to "Mr. Horton R. Telford, The American Embassy, Havana, Cuba"
return add "Post Office Box 6198, Apex Station, 813 Market Space, N. W.,
Washington, D. C." Personal and Confidential Via Diplomatic Air Pouch Official.,
bearing the number 59826 REGISTERED.

*done by Memo Lab Rep
12-7-43 ssa-rb*

64-4524-7-

December 1, 1943

REPLY TO BATHY 12-1

Re: AIR MAIL EXPLANATION FOR
CONFIDENTIALITY

Reference is made to the evidence which was submitted to the Laboratory in order that the results be examined.

The following envelopes bear the return address "Post Office Box 12345 Station Bldg. Market Space, N. W. Washington, D. C." and are addressed to "Mr. Hyde W. Clayton The American Embassy Guatemala City, Guatemala".

- Q13 Large brown envelope bearing registry no. 52133 and also no. 1911.
- Q14 Large brown envelope bearing registry no. 52130 and also no. 19157.
- Q15 Large brown envelope bearing registry no. 53500 and also no. 19137.
- Q16 Large brown envelope bearing registry no. 53730 and also no. 19111.
- Q17 Large brown envelope bearing registry no. 54630 and also no. 19107.
- Q18 Large brown envelope bearing registry no. 52115 and also no. 19130.
- Q19 White envelope bearing registry no. 13125 and also no. 19130.
- Q20 White envelope bearing no registry no. and stamped "L. Oct 21, 1943 A.M."
- Q21 White envelope bearing registry no. 12321 and also no. 19173.
- Q22 White envelope bearing registry no. 44501 and also no. 17743 crossed out.
- Q23 White envelope bearing registry no. 42600 and also no. 19190.
- Q24 White envelope bearing registry no. 13443 and also no. 19407.
- Q25 White envelope bearing no registry no. but stamped "L. Oct 21 1943 A.M." and marked "Personal and Confidential Via Diplomatic Air Pouch".
- Q26 White envelope bearing registry no. 11041 and also no. 19102 crossed out.
- Q27 White envelope bearing registry no. 11471 and also no. 19152.
- Q28 White envelope bearing registry no. 54212 and also no. 19131.
- Q29 White envelope bearing registry no. 10719 and also no. 19108.
- Q30 White envelope bearing registry no. 10719 and also no. 19108.
- Q31 White envelope bearing no registry no. but marked "Personal and Confidential Via Diplomatic Air Pouch" in the lower left-hand corner.
- Q32 White envelope bearing registry no. 10719 and also no. 19108 crossed out.
- Q33 White envelope bearing registry no. 10723 and also no. 19102 crossed out.

RECORDED

16 4 17 4

MAY 6 1944

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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Page two
Memorandum Laboratory Report

- Q34 White envelope bearing Registry No. 45339 and also No. 17316.
- Q35 White envelope bearing Registry No. 45340 and also No. 17675.
- Q36 White envelope bearing Registry No. 45341 and also No. 17625.
- Q37 White envelope bearing Registry No. 45747 and also No. 17357.
- Q38 White envelope bearing Registry No. 47433 and also No. 17942 crossed out.
- Q39 White envelope bearing Registry No. 47522 and also No. 17345 crossed out.
- Q40 White envelope bearing Registry No. 47540 and also No. 17443.
- Q41 White envelope bearing Registry No. 48127 and also No. 17323 crossed out.
- Q42 White envelope bearing Registry No. 47332 and also No. 17351.
- Q43 White envelope bearing Registry No. 48425 and also No. 17703.
- Q44 White envelope bearing Registry No. 54221 and also No. 19077.
- Q45 White envelope bearing Registry No. 53169 and also No. 19392.
- Q46 White envelope bearing Registry No. 52110 and also No. 19352.
- Q47 White envelope bearing Registry No. 55000 and also No. 20075.
- Q48 White envelope bearing Registry No. 55370 and also No. 20165.
- Q49 White envelope bearing Registry No. 55133 and also No. 20109.
- Q50 White envelope bearing no Registry No. but marked "Personal and Confidential via Diplomatic Air Pouch Official" in the upper right hand corner.
- Q51 White envelope bearing Registry No. 55395 and also No. 20289.
- Q52 White envelope bearing Registry No. 55753 and also No. 20327.

These envelopes were examined but no evidence of tampering or unauthorized tampering or opening was found.

Specimens Q13 through Q52 are being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

CA AFFEL

Best Copy

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HABANA, CUBA

November 27, 1943

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: ~~DIPL~~ DIPLOMATIC POUCH MAIL
Cuba - Administrative

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to our letter to the Bureau dated November 20, 1943, with which was enclosed an envelope returned for examination at the Bureau.

There are enclosed herewith two additional envelopes which appear to have been tampered with subsequent to their leaving the Bureau. It is requested that the appropriate examination be made of these envelopes to see if they have been opened and resealed subsequent to their leaving the Bureau and prior to our receipt thereof.

Very truly yours,

H. R. Telford

H. R. TELFORD
Acting Legal Attache

HRT:HGJ
Enclosure

CONF. INFT. S. I. S. #498

COPY AND SPECIMENS

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DATE 08-20-2010

ans by
Memo Lab Rep
12-9-43
caaprb

65-14647-4

NOV 11 1943

[Handwritten signatures and stamps]



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

November 23, 1943

CAR:CHH

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEE

Re: Tampering with Diplomatic
Correspondence from London.

The attached envelope was just received from Mr. Burton and your attention is invited to the fact that it was opened in exactly the same way as the two previous envelopes forwarded to you today. This method of opening an envelope, I believe to be due to the inability of the tamperer to use steam or other solvents to loosen the tamper proofed seams which apparently were prepared according to instructions except for the smeary appearance. Again it seems that a sharp knife was inserted just beyond the seam and manipulated in such a way as to split the under part of the fold. In this way, made very carefully, is a chamfered joint which is hardly visible except when the process is known.

I have marked the seam with arrows.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

ENCLOSURE
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FBI - INDEXED

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DATE 08-29-2010

58 JAN 11 1944

This work is by kind of the British.

62-4147-36
21 JAN 11 1944



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

FPC:WVK

November 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. F. A. TAMM

Re: Tampering and Opening of Bureau
Correspondence.
London-Washington
Lisbon-Washington

As a result of laboratory studies of envelopes received from Thurston in London and Flynn in Lisbon, we have come to the conclusion:

1. That our correspondence between London and Washington is very definitely being opened in a very skillful manner. The fact that it is probably accessible to the British enroute and the fact that the tampering is done with the very highest of skill in channelling, which skill to our knowledge only the British have attained, suggests that this opening is being done by the British.
2. We suspect that Bureau envelopes between Lisbon and Washington are being opened but are not yet able to definitely establish this for the reason that special tamperproof adhesive which has been recommended by the Laboratory has not yet been put in use on the Lisbon-Washington route.

This opening on the London-Washington route is being accomplished in an especially skillful manner. The tamperproof adhesive which Thurston is using precludes a steading open of the envelope flaps. To overcome this problem the unknown subjects have resorted to the procedure of skillfully cutting right through the paper with a sharp knife closely along the edge of one flap, and, where necessary, through the wax seal. The correspondence can then be removed through this opening. After it has been returned the slit is very skillfully chamfered and when properly done this chamfering is accomplished just under or exactly at the normal seam of the flap so that it would escape detection except by a scientific scrutiny. The work is unusually well done.

This work is clearly shown on the attached exhibits, and red arrows have been placed to indicate where the chamfering is noticeable:



58 JAN 11 1944

EX-54

21 DEC 10 1943

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Form for Mr. A. A. Coffey

Exhibit #1 - London to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier pouch
Registry #8472

A cut has been made along the left seam of the lower flap. It has been re-chamfered and the arrows point to the overlapping of the paper at the time of the re-chamfering. To illustrate how the removal is accomplished we have inserted a piece of cardboard which shows how the cut is made and permits entry underneath and without disturbing our specially glued flap.

Exhibit #2 - London to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier pouch
Registry #8460

Again the entry was made along the left-hand side of the lower flap by skillfully cutting just along the edge. The cut was repaired by chamfering and the small arrows indicate the overlap of the paper where the chamfering was accomplished.

Exhibit #3 - London to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier pouch
Registry #8463

Again the entry is made by cutting along the left-hand side of the lower flap, and evidence of the chamfering can be seen as indicated by the arrows, particularly noticeable at the highest point along the flap where it bisects the upper flap.

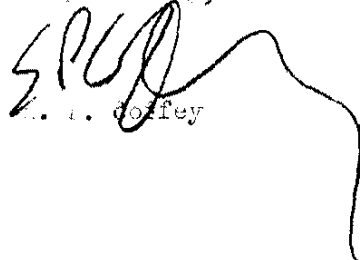
Exhibit #4 - Lisbon to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier pouch
Registry #2777

On this envelope our tamperproof adhesive was not used and we cannot be certain that the same was opened. However, the wax seal on the left-hand side of the back of the envelope appears to us to have been opened and re-sealed.

Exhibit #5 - Lisbon to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier pouch
Registry #2851

Again our tamperproof adhesive is not used on this envelope. We find no signs of tampering but cannot state with certainty whether or not it has been opened.

Respectfully,


A. A. Coffey

IPC:GCK

November 24, 1943

MR. F. A. TAMM

RE: Tampering and Opening of Bureau
Correspondence.
London-Washington
Lisbon-Washington

As a result of Laboratory studies of envelopes received from Thurston in London and Flinn in Lisbon, we have come to the conclusion:

1. That our correspondence between London and Washington is very definitely being opened in a very skillful manner. The fact that it is probably accessible to the British enroute and the fact that the tampering is done with the very highest of skill in chamerfering, which skill to our knowledge only the British have attained, suggests that this opening is being done by the British.
2. We suspect that Bureau envelopes between Lisbon and Washington are being opened but are not yet able to definitely establish this for the reason that special tamperproof adhesive which has been recommended by the Laboratory has not yet been put in use on the Lisbon-Washington route.

This opening on the London-Washington route is being accomplished in an especially skillful manner. The tamperproof adhesive which Thurston is using precludes a steaming open of the envelope flaps. To overcome this problem the unknown subjects have resorted to the procedure of skillfully cutting right through the paper with a sharp knife closely along the edge of one flap, and, where necessary, through the wax seal. The correspondence can then be removed through this opening. After it has been returned the slit is very skillfully chamfered and when properly done this chamfering is accomplished just under or exactly at the normal seam of the flap so that it would escape detection except by a scientific scrutiny. The work is unusually well done.

Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____ This work is clearly shown on the attached exhibits, and red arrows
Mr. Hendon _____ have been placed to indicate where the chamfering is noticeable:
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Memo for Mr. E. A. Tamm

**Exhibit #1 - London to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch
Registry #8672**

A cut has been made along the left seam of the lower flap. It has been re-chamfered and the arrows point to the overlapping of the paper at the time of the re-chamfering. To illustrate how the removal is accomplished we have inserted a piece of cardboard which shows how the cut is made and permits entry underneath and without disturbing our specially glued flap.

**Exhibit #2 - London to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch
Registry #8460**

Again the entry was made along the lefthand side of the lower flap by skillfully cutting just along the edge. The cut was repaired by chamfering and the small arrows indicate the overlap of the paper where the chamfering was accomplished.

**Exhibit #3 - London to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch
Registry #8468**

Again the entry is made by cutting along the lefthand side of the lower flap, and evidence of the chamfering can be seen as indicated by the arrows, particularly noticeable at the highest point along the flap where it bisects the upper flap.

**Exhibit #4 - Lisbon to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch
Registry #2777**

On this envelope our tamperproof adhesive was not used and we cannot be certain that the same was opened. However, the wax seal on the lefthand side of the back of the envelope appears to us to have been opened and re-sealed.

**Exhibit #5 - Lisbon to Washington via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch
Registry #2851**

Again our tamperproof adhesive is not used on this envelope. We find no signs of tampering but cannot state with certainty whether or not it has been opened.

Respectfully,

E. P. Goffey

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

November 19, 1943

FBI:EG

64-4524

D-8913

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches
Administrative

Reference is made to an envelope containing confidential material from Mr. Arthur M. Thurston, Legal Attache, American Embassy, London, England, mailed to the Director via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch bearing registry #8389 and serial #68827 which was submitted to the Laboratory for examination.

For the information of Mr. Burton of the Security Division, this envelope was examined and it was found that some of the fibers to which the glue was attached had been disturbed prior to the opening in the Laboratory. This may have been accomplished by our own representatives while carelessly opening the seams prior to the addition of the additional chemicals in the tamper-proofing process. Once the fibers are disturbed, it is not possible to determine by whom this was done.

In addition, it was noted that certain markings appeared on the outside of the envelope which were probably caused by the use of an iron. Furthermore, the sealing wax seals appearing at two corners of the envelope were completely destroyed. It is quite logical that these seals may have been destroyed through normal handling.

This envelope, listed in the Laboratory as specimen Q53, is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

Addendum: We are, however, unable to reach a definite conclusion as to whether the envelopes were tampered with and the reasons for not reaching a conclusion on the other are set forth above.

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DATE 08-27-2010



77 DEC 26 1943

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

NOV 24 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

November 19, 1943

FMM:EG

64-4524

D-8915

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY *h*

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches
Administrative

Reference is made to a routing slip from Mr. G. C. Burton of the Security Division dated November 8, 1943 with which he transmitted an envelope containing confidential material from Mr. Thurston in London to the Director via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch bearing registry #8130 and serial #68596 for examination in the Laboratory.

An examination of the seams of this envelope disclosed that some of the fibers had been disturbed. This could have been done either as a result of tampering by someone or by our own representatives while in the process of opening the seams to make them tamper-proof. The envelope also contained certain stains which may be caused by the improper application of the tamper-proof process.

The envelope, listed in the Laboratory as specimen Q55, is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

Addendum: We are, however, unable to reach a definite conclusion as to whether the envelopes were tampered with and the reasons for not reaching a conclusion one way or the other are set forth above.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin *h* _____
Mr. Ladd *h* _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____
h

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DATE 01-28-2010



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NOV 26 1943

h

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

FMH:EG

November 18, 1943

64-4524

D-8914

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY ✓

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches
Administrative

Reference is made to a routing slip from Mr. George C. Burton of the Security Division dated November 13, 1943 with which he transmitted an envelope containing confidential material from Mr. Thurston at London bearing registry #8563 and serial #69633 for examination in the Laboratory.

Examination of the envelope disclosed that certain fibers were disturbed along the seams of the envelope. This may have been accomplished during the tamper-proofing process in which the seams may have been opened without exercising the proper precautions. The sealing wax seals were also examined but no evidence of tampering could be found.

The seams of this envelope also showed other stains which were apparently brought about by our own representative during the application of the tamper-proofing process.

The envelope referred to above, specimen Q54, is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

Addendum: We are, however, unable to reach a definite conclusion as to whether the envelopes were tampered with and the reasons for not reaching a conclusion one way or the other are set forth above.

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NOV 24 1943

November 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM LABORATORY REPORT

Re: AIR MAIL DIPLOMATIC POUCHES

Reference is made to the evidence listed below which was submitted to the Laboratory for examination.

- Q4 Envelope bearing Registry Number 2860, addressed to "Hon. John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C." and marked "Via Courier Pouch"
- Q5 Envelope addressed to "Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C." and bearing the Registry Number 2863.
- Q6 Envelope addressed to "Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C." and bearing the Registry Number 2852.
- Q7- Envelope addressed to "Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C." and bearing the Registry Number 2895.
- Q8 Envelope addressed to "Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C." and bearing the Registry Number 2864.

Specimens Q4 through Q8 were examined and no evidence of tampering was found.

These specimens are being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

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EX-14

MAY 6 1944

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

November 16, 1943

CAA:CHM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Envelopes

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Acers _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Starke _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

On receipt of the attached letter and envelopes, they were subjected to an examination. It was concluded that the envelopes had been tampered with. Accordingly, this was reported orally to Mr. Cannon who stated that he had advised Mr. Thurston and Mr. Elinn telegraphically.

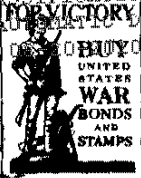
In order that evidence of this kind may be even more clear, efforts should be made to avoid the distribution of excess glue in places other than the under sides of the flaps. Further, since the application of glue to the flaps in addition to that put on by the manufacturer results in confusing an examination for tampering, it is believed that this should be avoided. No doubt also in applying the additional glue the flaps are sometimes torn open which produces the appearance of tampering.

Instead of the above it is suggested that the glue be applied to additional pieces of paper which should be glued on the inside of the lower flaps thus leaving no outside indication of special treatment. Then it would only be necessary to seal the flap with extra glue. If this is to be applied over the older glue at the time envelopes are submitted for examination, the Laboratory should be notified. It would be an advantage to use a piece of paper for the additional protection in closing the flaps but this may not be desirable on account of the apparent desire for the use of wax seals. Wax seals, as you know, can be opened and restored. If tamper-proofing is applied to the envelope, under no circumstances should the envelope be framed after the seal is applied. After tamper-proofing is applied, all envelopes should be forwarded for a period.

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

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THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA
November 1, 1943

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches
Administrative

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of October 20, 1943 (Bureau file 64-4524-124) captioned "Diplomatic Air Mail", and to previous correspondence from this office and the Bureau in regard to the same subject matter, including Bureau cable No. 60 of August 30, 1943.

Since the Bureau has gone to the trouble of sending correspondence to this office in specially prepared envelopes, and since the envelope discussed in Bureau letter of October 20, 1943 was definitely opened by someone outside the Bureau, there are being enclosed herewith all of the envelopes which have been received from the Bureau of this office since September 7, 1943. Although there has been no apparent tampering with these, it is believed that perhaps the Bureau would desire to subject them to a laboratory examination to make certain whether or not they show evidence of unauthorized opening. Each one has been carefully slit on three sides, so as not to disturb the original sealing in accordance with instructions previously received from the Bureau.

In regard to envelope bearing registry number 49790, discussed in Bureau reference letter of October 20, 1943, the Bureau is advised that investigation at this Embassy to date indicated that it was highly improbable, if not impossible that that envelope was opened by anyone in this Embassy before it reached the Office of the Legal Attache.

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EX-11

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To Director - 11.5.43
Re Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches

Mr. Gerald A. Drew, First Secretary of this Embassy, acting for the Ambassador, suggested that it might be prudent to have the State Department mail directed to this Embassy placed in specially prepared envelopes also, to check the possibility of their having been tampered with. No definite action has been taken by Mr. Drew on this matter to date.

A careful check of the condition of envelopes arriving here from the Bureau is being continued by this office.

Very truly yours,

Hyde H. Clayton,
Legal Attache

Enclosures (40)

HTC:jpd

Best Copy

D7468

October 11, 1943

LABORATORY REPORT

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches
Administrative

The following specimens were submitted by Mr. Hyde T. Clayton, Legal Attache at Guatemala, on October 1, 1943:

- Q1 Envelope bearing Registry No. 49790 addressed to "Mr. Hyde T. Clayton, The American Embassy, Guatemala City, Guatemala, return address "Post Office Box 6198 Apex Station, 813 Market Space, N.W., Washington D. C.", marked "PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR POUCH."
- Q2 Accompanying fourth page of report, carbon copy, to "J. W. Belworth" and signed "J. E. Hoover".

The envelope was examined for the purpose of determining whether it had been surreptitiously opened after being sealed. It was concluded that after the envelope was first sealed it was opened by inserting a blunt instrument under the flap and prying the flap loose. This resulted in causing the paper to split. There were several folds in the flap where the split was too thin. Instead of attempting to repair the damage, the flap was fastened down with Scotch tape. Stains on the flap on the back of the envelope of a purple color could have come from the same source as the ink of the registry stamp since the colors match very well. These are on the flap under the Scotch tape but of course these stains could have been made at a time when the registration stamp was being placed on the front, earlier than the time when the flap was opened. If it be assumed that these stains are of the ink of the registration stamp, they are evidence that the flap was opened after the registration stamp was used since they are placed on the mutilated flap under the Scotch tape and it is reasonable to believe that the Scotch tape was used to hold the envelope together after it was damaged in being torn open.

EX - 35 RECORDED

These stains are the only evidence as to the time when the envelope was opened and of course but for them it could have been possible for the sender of the envelope to have torn it open after sealing it. A number of suggestions have been made that in all mail to distant points like this advantage should be taken of the method of sealing an envelope with a special solution in the Document Section. In that way any accidental or careless closing of the envelope by a Bureau employee at the seat of government could be eliminated; also it would be impossible to open the envelope without causing the type of damage that appears to exist on this specimen. To use the suggested method it is only necessary to secure a

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Document Section for tamper-proofing which is done in the Confidential Examination Unit.

D-6926

October 6, 1943

DIPLOMATIC LABORATORY REPORT

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic pouches

In regard to this matter an examination was made of the envelopes but no evidence of tampering was found, but of course this could have been done without detection since the envelopes were not specially prepared.

As previously indicated, envelopes for delivery to these places should be filled and sealed in the usual way and then delivered to Mr or Miss Jones of the Confidential Examination Unit with the request that they be given the special treatment developed by the Document Section. When this is done, if they are opened by any of the usual tampering methods, the paper will split or tear and this may be observed by the recipient. For this purpose split the envelopes along the side and bottom so as to examine all the flaps both inside and out. If they appear to him to have been opened, they should then be forwarded to the Laboratory as in the present instance. Then if the Laboratory find no evidence, it may be assumed that no tampering has occurred.

While the negative report on the current specimens, #2 and #3, could indicate that no tampering occurred, this can not be positive in the absence of the special treatment.

CA AFFEL

Best Copy

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F	B	I
MAY 6 1944		
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7-2-1944 202

CH:VV

In reply, Please refer to
file number 64-4524-124

October 20, 1943

65-48647-1X8

PASSAL AND 3711 100AL
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR MAIL

RECORDED

SIS #329

Hyde Taylor Clayton

Re: Diplomatic Air Mail
Guatemala - Administrative

Dear Sir:

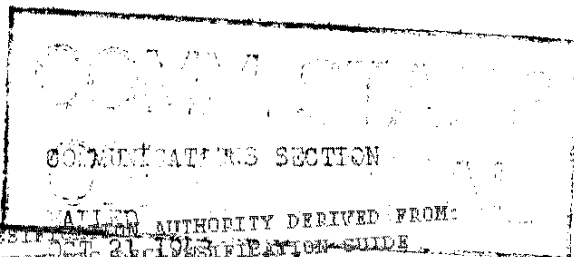
Reference is made to your letter of October 1, 1943 regarding an envelope bearing registry number 49790 which was received by you on September 30, 1943.

You are advised this envelope has been examined by the FBI Laboratory and it has been determined that after the envelope was first sealed it was opened by inserting a blunt instrument under the flap and prying the flap loose. It was, of course, not been possible to determine where this was done. However, it has been determined that the envelope was opened after its receipt by the State Department, as it was opened subsequent to the affixing of the word "registered", which is done in the State Department. It is suggested that this envelope may have been delivered to the wrong person in the Embassy at Guatemala City and opened by mistake there.

It is desired that you bring any future occurrences of this kind to the attention of the Bureau immediately.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director



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THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA
October 1, 1943

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches
Administrative

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter of September 13, 1943 and references contained therein in regard to the above captioned matter.

For the information of the Bureau there is attached hereto the envelope bearing registry No. 49790 which was received by this office through unaccompanied diplomatic air pouch on September 30, 1943.

Superficial examination of the envelope indicates that possibly it has been torn open and thereafter re-sealed with Scotch tape. The obvious tearing under the flap of the envelope was not done at this office.

The contents of this envelope was one copy of a Bureau letter regarding Harry Hilton Hardy, Subversive Activities - R, dated September 23, 1943 and addressed to Mr. J. C. Delworth at San Salvador. The letter stated among other things that Hardy is working for the British. The letter was perforated by an extra set of staple marks near the staple which held its pages together. Attached to the letter was an extra fourth page of the report. This fourth page is being returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

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Hyde T. Clayton
Legal Attache

Enclosures

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon, Portugal
October 1, 1943

Communication No. 10

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR COURIER~~
~~POUCH~~

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Attention Liaison Section

Re: USE OF BRITISH COURIER
POUCH, LONDON TO LISBON-
LISBON TO LONDON.

Dear Sir:

Shortly after my arrival at Lisbon, I determined that the American Legation during the summer months did not have its own diplomatic air courier pouch service to London, England and return. Mr. George Frost Kennan, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim, brought this to my attention stating that the British pouch is used. He commented that this was an undesirable situation and that the British might be getting into American dispatches. He stated, however, that he had no actual proof of this and, even if he did have, he would be reluctant to take any action since the British Minister, Lisbon had actually gone out of his way to keep the American Legation advised of developments.

All routine and possibly some confidential dispatches to and from London are sent by British pouch and only occasionally when something particularly confidential must be forwarded, is someone in the American Legation designated as a one-trip courier to take the dispatch through. This situation will not exist after October 15, 1943, when Pan-American ceases to use the northern route, namely, New York, Botwood, Newfoundland, Foynes, Eire. The regular courier from Washington to London will then come New York, Azores, Lisbon, London and can pick up here any dispatches for London.

While in London, I reviewed a large number of files maintained by Mr. Arthur M. Thurston, Legal Attache at that point and selected therefrom, copies of correspondence which were of interest to my assignment. In addition, copies of letters which I had forwarded to the Bureau from London were kept for forwarding to Lisbon to make my files complete. All of this material, an itemized list of which is attached, was forwarded to me by Mr. Thurston's office, via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch;

Registered: Personal and Confidential.

Copied Spec Returned

10/20/43

NAME REPORT

J. Edgar Hoover
(Communication No. 10)

Lisbon, Portugal
10/1/43

Registry #177 was placed on the envelope by the American Embassy, London. The large manila envelope bearing this registry number is attached. It will be noted, that one piece of correspondence is still contained therein. This was not removed by me since it was so firmly pasted to the inside of the envelope that to remove it was thought undesirable if an adequate laboratory examination was to be made. This envelope and its contents arrived and was delivered to me on August 31, 1943, at the American Legation, Lisbon. I have initialed and dated the face of the envelope for identification purposes.

In addition, I am enclosing a small white envelope received by me at Lisbon, Portugal, on September 3, 1943, via Diplomatic Air Courier Pouch, Registry #180, at London, England. This too was forwarded to me by Mr. Thurston. It will be noted that a second envelope is contained therein addressed to me and it was in this one that the communications were contained, an inventory of which is attached. I have also initialed and dated both of the small white envelopes for identification.

There is also enclosed, a small manila envelope which was received by me on September 7, 1943, from London, England. This envelope bears London Registry #185 and contained one letter, namely, Communication #1, dated 8/31/43, sent to me from Mr. Arthur M. Thurston, re Helmut Siegfried Goldschmidt, Espionage-G; a copy of which was forwarded to the Bureau.

It is understood that all outside envelopes enclosed were given the confidential tamper-proof treatment known to the Bureau prior to their forwarding by Mr. Thurston's office.

It is requested that the Technical Laboratory make an examination of these envelopes to determine whether they were opened prior to their slitting by the writer upon their receipt. It is desired that this examination be expedited, since the American Legation in Lisbon and the American Embassy in London continues to use the British pouch, which is very undesirable in the event the secrecy of this American correspondence is not being honored by the British.

In the event that the Laboratory finds that either or both of these envelopes have been clandestinely opened, it is suggested that the State Department not be advised, until Mr. Thurston and myself have had the opportunity to make one or more test runs of correspondence, in order to determine whether this is a general practice. I have arranged for these test runs with Mr. Thurston, during his stay in Lisbon, and the Bureau will be furnished with additional envelopes as soon as available. In

J. Edgar Hoover
Communication #10

-3-

Lisbon, Portugal
10/1/43

the meanwhile, neither Mr. Thurston nor I, intend to forward any communications, whatsoever, to each other, if it is necessary to use the British pouch.

In the event, the Laboratory feels it undesirable in this instance to make the examination requested on the envelopes enclosed without additional standards, it is suggested that the office of the Legal Attache, London, England be requested to prepare a number of envelopes in their usual manner and forward them to the Bureau, so that the proper comparison can be made.

I have taken no steps to supply Mr. Thurston with a copy of this communication or suggest the forwarding of standards to the Bureau, since no adequate pouch facilities are available and, in view of the nature of this communication, it is not believed desirable to use the British Pouch.

Very truly yours,



D. A. Flinn
Legal Attache

DAF:RM
Enc. 5

CONTENTS OF ENVELOPE BEARING
LONDON REGISTRY # 177

1. Expense account D.A. Flinn, period 7/1/43 to 8/15/43
2. Memo for file by John A. Cimperman, London, England 8/18/43, re Ostrich information regarding Charles Eastwood
3. Memo for file by John A. Cimperman London, England 8/18/43-Ostrich Information re Joaquim Pereira
4. Memo for file by J.A. Cimperman, London, England, 8/18/43, re Ostrich Information on Karl Denner
5. Memo for file by J. A. Cimperman, London, England 8/9/43 re Ostrich Information on Franzisco Roque Martinez
6. Letter to Director, communication #1232 dated 8/10/43, London, Eng. by A. M. Thurston-re Ostrich info "V-Many CC be sent to Lisbon and contact address Avenida Joaquim Antonio De Aguiar, 35, 3rd left."
7. Memo by J. A. Cimperman for the file, London, England, 8/2/43-Ostrich Info re Gilberto Calvao Carvalho
8. Memo for file by J. A. Cimperman, London, England 8/2/43-Ostrich Information re Frl. Graas
9. DLM-II- "Most Secret" "The German Technique of Triple-crossing" (5 page memo by J.M.A. Gwyer.
10. Letter to Director, Communication #1, from D.A.Flinn, Legal Attache, Lisbon, made at London 8/18/43 re Douglas Frank Springhall
11. Letter to Director, Communication #2, by D.A.Flinn, Legal Attache, Lisbon, made at London, England 8/18/43 re Communist Party Courier System
12. Letter to Director, Communication #3 by D.A. Flinn, Legal Attache, Lisbon, made at London, England, 8/19/43, re "Sample Baggage Checks used in Trans-Atlantic Travel"
13. Letter to Director, Communication #4, by D.A.Flinn, Legal Attache, Lisbon, made at London, England, 8/19/43 re "Possession of State Department Code Book by German authorities in Tunisia".
14. Letter to Director from Arthur M. Thurston, London, England, 3/15/43 re "Luson Popov alias Tricycle-Espionage-G.
15. Letter to Director from A.M. Thurston, London, England, 4/26/43, Communication #693, referring to communication #303 attaching a list of current cover addresses of MI 15 Double Agents made available by J.M.A. Gwyer
16. Letter to Director from A.M.Thurston, American Embassy, London 4/21/43, Communication #659, re Rogerio De Magalhaes Peixato Menzes, Espionage G and I.
17. Letter to Director from A.M.Thurston, London, England 3/6/43, Communication #413, re list of hotels in Lisbon, Portugal with comments concerning each one as to reliability from a security standpoint.
18. Letter to Director from A.M.Thurston, London, England 7/19/43 Communication #1067 re "German Shipping and Naval Espionage in Portugal".
19. Letter to Director from A.M.Thurston, London, England, 7/27/43 Communication #1125-Bureau file 64-3000-A-371, re "Sicherheitsdienst-German Secret Service.

CONTENTS OF ENVELOPE BEARING LONDON REGISTRY #177

20. Letter to Director from A.M. Thurston, London, England, 6/21/43
Communication # 965 re Eugene Sostoric - Pisacis, was
Espionage G- Handling of Triple Agents.
21. Official list of U.S. Federal Officers in London dated May 26, 1943
printed for distribution by American Embassy in London
22. Photostatic copy of dossier concerning "The Puppet-Koessler Case"
by A.H. Robertson
23. Photostatic copy of dossier concerning "Interrogation of Fanto"
24. Photostatic copy of "Fanto's Interrogation--Index of names"

CONTENTS OF ENVELOPE BEARING
LONDON REGISTRY #180

1. Memo by J.M.A. Gwyer re "The Ast. Hamburg Organization in Lisbon".
2. Letter to Director from A.M. Thurston, London, England 8/26/43,
Communication #1340, attaching list of names and phrases with
corresponding numbers from 75069 to 75293 to be used as a
supplement to the Universal Trade Code.
3. Letter from A. M. Thurston, London, England 8/24/43 to Director
Communication #1326, re "R.O. Gerson, was., et al; Espionage-G."

THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA
September 13, 1943.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to past correspondence in the above captioned matter; viz. letter to the Bureau dated at Guatemala City on August 20, 1943; Bureau cable No. 30, dated August 30, 1943; and letter to the Bureau dated at Guatemala City on September 10, 1943.

Attached, herewith, are two envelopes bearing registered No. 46770 and registered No. 46790, respectively, received from the Bureau by this office on September 13, 1943, which have been opened by slitting the sides in accordance with previous Bureau instructions.

For the information of the Technical Laboratory, the envelope bearing registered No. 46790 contained a cashier's check for William E. Asmus attached to a cover letter. It was noted that the staple used to attach these two papers had apparently been removed. The check and cover letter both had holes and machine marks in a spot apart from the one in which the staple was located when received.

The staple, which attached the papers when they arrived here, appeared to have been inserted by hand since there was no mark of a stapling machine as had been made when the first staple was attached, and since the staple itself was loosely attached to the papers.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010 BY 641

RECORDED
EX-14

65-41641-186

F	B	I
MAY 6 1944		
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL		

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 64-1504-111

72

323/jh

In reply, Please
refer to Bureau
File No. 65-48647-1X5

October 1, 1963

~~PERSONAL AND UNCLASSIFIED
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR POUCH~~

ENCLOSURE

SIS No. 329

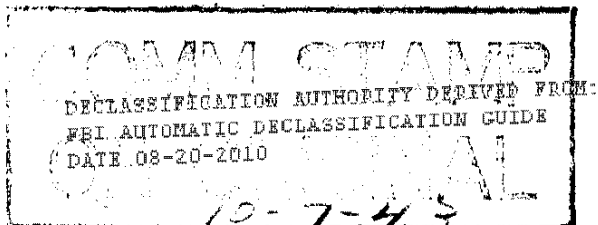
Hyde Taylor Clayton

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter to the Bureau of September 10, 1963 captioned as above. In your referenced letter you enclosed an envelope which had been used to forward Bureau correspondence to Guatemala City, which you state appeared to have been tampered with. You requested that the Laboratory make a more complete investigation of the envelope.

Attached hereto are two copies of the FBI Laboratory report.



Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 ENCL. Enclosure

ORIGINAL COPY FILED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

September 23, 1943

File #64-4524-103

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches

Lab #36731

Examination requested by: Guatemala City, Guatemala

Reference: Letter 9-10-43

Examination requested: Document

APPEL

Specimens:

- Q1 One manila envelope (9 1/2" x 12" size) with label attached bearing registered no. 45735.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION:

Upon examination of the instant specimen no evidence was found indicating that the envelope had been opened surreptitiously.

The original evidence is being retained in the files of the Laboratory.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010
BY 1-Laboratory

65-48647-185
ENCLOSURE

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 65-48647-185

THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA
September 13, 1943

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter to the Bureau, dated at Guatemala City on August 20, 1943, and captioned as above. Reference also is made to Bureau cable of August 30, 1943 in reply to reference letter, which cable was numbered 80.

In compliance with the instructions in reference cable, there is enclosed, herewith, an envelope which was used to forward Bureau correspondence to Guatemala City, and which appears to have been tampered with. It is respectfully requested that the Laboratory make a more complete examination of this envelope.

As of possible assistance to the Laboratory in its examination, this envelope was entered on State Department Invoice A-212 and was sent in Sack No. 1304 from Washington, D. C. on September 4, 1943. It did not travel by Diplomatic Courier, but rather in an Unaccompanied Air Pouch. It was received by the American Embassy on September 7, 1943. According to the Embassy employee who is charged with opening the mail, the seals were intact upon receipt.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

Hyde T. Clayton,
Legal Attache

Enclosure
DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010

15-42-17-115	
F	B
MAY 6 1944	
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL - 2	

August 20, 1943

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches

Dear Sir:

Mr. Gerald A. Drew, First Secretary of the United States Embassy in Guatemala, recently discussed with the Assistant Legal Attaché, Mr. William E. Assmus, the subject of United States Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches, and the possibility that the Guatemalan Government may be opening such pouches.

For the Bureau's information, Air Mail Diplomatic Pouches formerly were received by the United States Embassy here on the night mail delivery. However, for the last month, it has been noted that these pouches are arriving at the Embassy between 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon. There has been no indication that these pouches have been tampered with, but the circumstance of their possibly being held overnight in the Guatemalan Post Office gives rise to the presumption that they may be being opened by the Guatemalan authorities.

Inasmuch as these pouches are within the large mail sacks, it is impossible for Pan-American Airways or other trusted sources to advise the Embassy of the exact time of arrival of any particular pouch.

RECORDED
DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010

65-48647-184

F	B	I
MAY 6 1944		
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL - 2		

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 65-48647-184

To: Director, 8.20.43
Re: Diplomatic Pouches

As Mr. Drew stated, this changed schedule of arrival of diplomatic pouches may be due to the fact that the pouch arrives on the Pan-American Airways "Sun Ray" Flight, which reaches Guatemala at 9:45 AM after overnighiting in Mexico City; or they may arrive on the "Clipper" from New Orleans, the schedule of which is, as yet, unsettled.

It should be pointed out that practically all the mail received by this office arrives via Air Mail Diplomatic Pouch, and examination of these pouches by the Guatemalan Government would, therefore, be of vital interest to the Bureau and this office.

It was the suggestion of Mr. Drew, and the thought of the writer, that the Bureau Laboratory may desire to prepare specially treated envelopes for this office in order that it may be ascertained if these envelopes are being tampered with by the Guatemalan Government. In the event that the Bureau considers such a plan advisable, this office would, of course, open the envelopes in any manner specified by the Laboratory and return all envelopes to the Bureau via accompanied diplomatic pouch for examination by the Laboratory.

Mr. Drew has not advised the State Department of his suspicions, since there is no evidence to indicate that his suspicions are founded in fact.

The Bureau is requested to advise this office by cable if the Laboratory will use specially treated envelopes for mail directed to this office.

Very truly yours,

For the Legal Attaché
William E. Assmus,
Assistant Legal Attaché

WMA:kpf

*For E. L. Brown
PK Kear*

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
May 26th, 1943

Dear Sir:

Re: Envelope Sent Via Diplo-
matic Courier Received
in Damaged Condition;
Brazil - Administrative

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated
May 22nd last regarding the above-entitled matter.

For the information of the Bureau eighty
pieces of mail were placed in the envelope addressed to the
Bureau by the Rio Office.

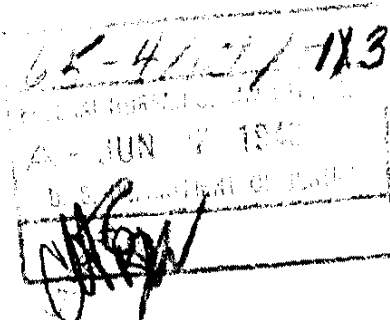
Respectfully,

William J. Brabley
W. J. BRABLEY

WJB:FAW

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010

70 JUN 28 1943



LEE:rls

May 22, 1943

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR POUCH

SIS #111 - Wm. Bradley

Re: Envelope Sent Via Diplomatic
Courier Received in Damaged Condition;
Brazil Administrative

Dear Sir:

A large Manila envelope addressed to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., and sent Via Courier, Personal and Confidential, by your office was received at the Bureau on May 17, 1943, in a damaged condition, the entire left side and a portion of the upper and lower edges being torn. The following numbers and stamps appeared on the envelope:

1. "Reg. 1015," which was in handwriting.
2. A stamped number, "26998."
3. A block stamp reading as follows: "Received in damaged condition - Dept. of State, Washington, D. C. (Ma.)"

Mr. Tolson _____ The envelope is being submitted to the Technical Section, and
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ Laboratory has been requested to render an opinion as to whether it
Mr. Clegg _____ was intentionally or accidentally damaged or torn. The contents con-
Mr. Coffey _____ sisted of eighty pieces of mail, and the latest date appearing on this
Mr. Glavin _____ material is May 8, 1943.

Mr. Ladd _____

Mr. Nichols _____ It is requested that you immediately advise the Bureau as to
Mr. Rosen _____ the number of pieces of mail that were placed in the envelope by you
Mr. Tracy _____ in order that it may be determined whether any of the correspondence

Mr. Carson _____ is missing.

Mr. Harbo _____

Mr. Hendon _____

Mr. McGuire _____

Mr. Mumford _____

Mr. Quinn Tamm _____

Mr. Nease _____

Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED

Very truly yours,

MAY 22 1943

Director

70 MAY 29 1943

rls 72

A.J. TUOHY: 1

65-48647-1X

May 11, 1943

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR POUCH

In reply refer to
File Number 64-22643

SIS # 386

RE: DIPLOMATIC AIR MAIL POUCH #2522
QUITO, ECUADOR, MARCH 10, 1943

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of #160 dated March 18, 1943, at Quito, Ecuador, in the above-captioned matter.

The evidence transmitted with the above-mentioned report has been examined in the Technical Laboratory, and the results of the examination are contained in the attached

A.J.T:esk

5/10/43

CC-285

65-48647-1X1

PERSONAL ~~AND~~ CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date:

To: Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: **ALLEGED TAMPERING WITH DIPLOMATIC AIR MAIL POUCH #2522**
QUITO, ECUADOR

There are transmitted herewith a memorandum containing information relative to the alleged tampering with diplomatic air mail pouch number 2522 received at Quito, Ecuador, on March 10, 1943, and a memorandum setting forth the results of an examination of the envelopes contained in said pouch by the Bureau's Technical Laboratory.

This information has been received from a reliable and confidential source and has been made available to the American Embassy at Quito, Ecuador.

Enclosures *D*

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

73 JUL 13 1943

JUSTICE

RECEIVED

MAY 14 7 22 PM '43

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

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RECEIVED

AJT:esk
5/10/43
64-22643

RE: ALLEGED TAMPERING WITH DIPLOMATIC AIR MAIL POUCH #2522
QUITO, ECUADOR

On March 10, 1943, the American Embassy at Quito, Ecuador, received diplomatic air mail pouch #2522, and according to outward appearances the pouch had apparently been tampered with en route or at Quito. The pouch was a light, small bag of the usual air-mail variety and usually was sealed with a twine, lead seal. The pouch was brought to the Embassy at 3:30 p.m. by the post office agent who meets the Panagra planes for the purpose of receiving the air mail. His name is Eloy Padilla, and he was accompanied on this occasion by Alfonso Vasquez, Panagra Airport Manager.

At the time the pouch was brought to the Embassy, the office of the Legal Attache was not aware of the situation until the departure of Padilla and Vasquez and for that reason they were not interviewed immediately upon the delivery of the pouch, which was received by Mr. Claude Anthony Ross, Third Secretary of the Embassy.

Immediately upon ascertaining that the pouch had evidently been tampered with, Mr. Ross called upon the office of the Legal Attache and an immediate survey of the contents of the pouch was made. Some of the letters showed the possibility of having been opened, but at the time it could not definitely be stated if the letters had been opened because of a lack of knowledge of the conditions of the original sealing of the envelopes, the quantity of water used and the manner of their sealing.

Attached hereto there is a list of the contents of the pouch as furnished by Alfred T. Nester, Charge d'Affaires. This list shows only the registered pieces of mail contained in the pouch, the other mail having been sent loose, as it is customary, and there is no record in the Embassy at Quito showing the full contents of the pouch other than the registered mail.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Mr. Ross stated that the pouch was tied and that Padilla stated that when he took the pouch out of the large mail bag containing the mail for Quito, it was noticed that the twine of the seal apparently had been cut and retied. It was brought to the Embassy immediately after it was discovered in this condition and was brought to the Embassy in the exact condition in which it was taken from the large mail bag. Mr. Ross advised that a telegram was immediately dispatched to Mr. Harold L. Williamson, American Consul General in Guayaquil, for the purpose of advising him of the situation and causing an investigation to be conducted in Guayaquil. Mr. Nester also cabled Cali, Colombia, requesting an

65-48647-1X1

investigation to be conducted at that point, in view of the fact that it was believed that the international plane which carried the pouch from Balboa to Guayaquil had stopped overnight in Cali, one of the regular stops of that run.

Mr. George Mansfield, Operations Manager at Panagra, in Quito, was interviewed on March 12, 1943, and it was learned that Luco Aguirre, Panagra Dispatcher, had also been present when the pouch was discovered. Mansfield stated that Aguirre had told him the story as to what had happened but that he, himself, was not present upon the arrival of the plane carrying the pouch in question. He said he was told that Padilla, the Post Office representative, discovered the damage to the bag almost immediately when it was taken out of the large mail bag and that Padilla then called over the airport manager, Alfonso Vasquez, who was standing nearby and that the Dispatcher, Aguirre, was there and saw the condition of the pouch. Mansfield could give no further details and in the course of the conversation suggested that the Bureau representative at the convenience of the company should go to the airport on the arrival of one of the daily flights from Guayaquil and see the manner in which the mail was received, and question the persons who are known to have been present when the pouch in question was first discovered.

On March 16, 1943, this suggestion was carried out and it was observed that the mail, along with other baggage, was loaded on a small wagon and carried to the back of the Panagra office. There the baggage was separated from the mail by Panagra employees, and the mail was placed in a pile where the Dispatcher, Aguirre, sorted out the pieces that were still in transit from those that were to remain in Quito. Padilla, Assistant Air Mail Superintendent for the Ecuadorian mail service, meets the plane daily, and it is his duty to gather up the Quito mail and place it in a large bag for delivery to the post office in downtown Quito. There are a number of persons who assist in this job, some of whom are Panagra employees, others taxi drivers of the Chavez Agency, which does all the hauling for the Panagra Company, and anyone else who might be around.

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Hendon

Mr. McGuire

Mr. Mumford

Mr. Piper

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

The responsibility for the mail rests in the hands of Padilla who checks it and brings it down to the post office. All the sorting and collecting takes place in the open in the rear of the Panagra building at the Airport.

Padilla was interviewed by a confidential and reliable informant while he was gathering up the mail for delivery to the post office, and he stated that when he opened the large bag to check the mail therein on March 10, 1943, the air mail pouch for the American Embassy was removed, since it was to be delivered on the way to the post office. It was at that time that the discovery was made that the seal of the pouch had been broken or cut and had been retied. He said that he then called over Vasquez and

showed it to him to evidence the fact that he had found it in that condition, and that he and Vasquez brought the pouch to the Embassy as soon as he had finished his duties at the airport. Padilla immediately turned the pouch over to Mr. Ross and explained the situation to him. Padilla could not furnish information concerning the manner in which the mail pouch came down from Miami and whether or not it had been contained in a sealed bag as far as Guayaquil. He said the pouch had arrived in Quito in a large white bag containing other mail and that this large bag was not locked or sealed in any way.

Mr. Lugo Aguirre was questioned concerning his knowledge of the occurrence, and he affirmed the information previously received. He said that it was his belief that the mail came down from Miami in an open bag destined for Ecuador, and that this could have happened anywhere along the line, possibly where the plane stayed overnight. It was learned that the Panagra run came straight through from Balboa and made only short stops at Cali and Guayaquil, at which latter point the mail was transferred from the international run to the shuttle plane from Guayaquil to Quito. It was noticed that the pouch that came in that day, March 16, 1943, came in an open bag and was merely put aside for delivery to the Embassy, just as Mr. Padilla stated the interested pouch had arrived. Mr. Aguirre said that the pouch that had been tampered with came in the same manner. The only time that the pouch in question was not in transit was in Balboa, where the baggage and passengers stayed overnight to transfer from the Clipper from Miami to Balboa to the Panagra run down the West coast of South America early the next morning. In other words, the pouch was in Balboa overnight on the night of March 9, 1943, and continued to Quito the following day, March 10, 1943, where it was received at the airport in Quito in a damaged condition. It was learned from Guayaquil that the transfer from the international plane to the local plane took a little more than an hour and that for the most part of this period the mail was on board either the international or the local plane.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____ It was ascertained at Guayaquil that the international plane carrying the pouch was in Cali about fifteen minutes and that it was the belief of the Panagra agent there that the mail was carried in the rear compartment in the tail of the ship, precluding any tampering with the mail by crew members of the plane.
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____ According to the information furnished by Mr. Williamson of Guayaquil, the pouch in question came from Miami to Quito in the general "blue" bag which carries a seal. This is not confirmed by information developed at Quito which indicates that the pouch came in an open white general bag from Guayaquil to Quito, and had it been in a general "blue" bag destined for Quito from Miami, it would not have been removed until it had reached Quito. Coming loose from Guayaquil tends to substantiate the belief that it came in an open bag all the way from Miami.
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

The investigation conducted at Quito and Guayaquil does not indicate that the pouch was tampered with in Ecuador. Investigation at Guayaquil indicated that the plane carrying the pouch arrived at Guayaquil somewhat late or at approximately 12:15 p.m. The local shuttle plane had already arrived at Guayaquil at 11:34 a.m. and left Quito at 1:37 p.m., subsequent to awaiting connection with the Northbound international plane. The mail for Quito from the United States was transferred almost directly from the incoming Southbound plane to the local plane for Quito which, as stated, was already on hand. The mail for Quito was not brought into the airbase building at Guayaquil, but was checked on the platform and loaded within a period of not more than five minutes directly onto the shuttle plan for Quito.

Upon receipt of the information concerning the alleged tampering of the pouch, investigation was immediately conducted at Cali, Colombia, on March 11, 1943. Mr. John C. Stoddard, Manager of the Corporacion Maritima Colombiana, which corporation serves as agents for Panagra Air Lines in Cali, was immediately contacted, at which time he furnished the following information in writing:

"This is to certify that the southbound plane of March 10th operated on delayed schedule having overnighted the previous night in Balboa and passing through Cali at about 9 a.m. The plane remained in Cali approximately 15 minutes.

"All mail and cargo for Guayaquil and Quito were apparently loaded in the rear compartment of the plane, as is the customary practice of Balboa when the plane operates on delayed schedule. This compartment was not opened when the plane passed through Cali in transit, as all the baggage, cargo, and mail destined for Cali were located in the front compartment. We have no record of diplomatic mail being on the plane and destined for Quito, but we believe that this mail must have been in the rear compartment of the plane.

"The crew of this plane was the following: Captain Jardine, Co-pilot Bentzen, Radio-Operator Frowe, Purser (from Balboa to Cali) T. Avant, from Cali south - Rouillon.

"We regret that we cannot give any further information as to the handling of the mail destined to Quito."

Stoddard added further that he personally felt sure of the integrity of the entire crew aboard the Southbound plane on March 10, 1943, and

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

also he personally could vouch for the supervisors of the mail of his company who are responsible for the handling of the mail at the Cali Airport.

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

AJT:esk
5/10/43
64-22643

List of Contents of Air mail Pouch #2522

1. Registered Letter No. 11510 for Military Attache from War Department.
2. Registered Letter No. 11572 for American Embassy.
3. Registered Letter No. 11568 for American Embassy.
4. Department Airgram No. A-299, March 8, 1943, 7:30 p.m.
5. Department Circular Airgram of March 6, 1943.
6. Department Circular Airgram of March 8, 1943.
7. Letter to Alfred T. Nester, Charge d'Affaires a.i.
8. Letter to Alfred T. Nester, Charge d'Affaires a.i. from Boaz Long.
9. Letter to William L. Schurs from the Department.
10. Letter to Dr. T. F. Ford, Rubber Development Corp., Quito, from Rubber Development Corp., Washington.
11. Letter to Walerk W. Lowry from Rubber Development Corp., Washington. (2 letters)
12. Letter to Edwin R. Kinnear from Export-Import Bank, Washington.
13. Letter to Rubber Development Corp., Quito, from Rubber Dev. Co., Wash.
14. Letter to David Yale from Department of Agriculture, Washington.
15. Letter to American Embassy from Dispatch Agent, New York.
16. Letter to Samuel Miller, BEW Representative, Quito, from BEW, Washington.
17. Letter to American Ambassador (Correspondence for Coordination Committed, letter No. E-1007, March 5, 1943) from Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.
18. Envelope to American Legation, from Department, containing press releases Nos. 89, 91-94; Departmental Release No. 19.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

AJT:esk
5/10/43
64-22643

cc [redacted]
cc [redacted]
The American Consulate
Guayaquil, Ecuador

b6
b7c

RE: ALLEGED TAMPERING WITH DIPLOMATIC AIR MAIL POUCH #2522
QUITO, ECUADOR

Report of the Technical Laboratory of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, setting forth the results of the examination of various envelopes contained in diplomatic air mail pouch #2522 received at Quito, Ecuador, March 10, 1943.

The first eighteen of the following specimens are envelopes, all of which have been opened. All nineteen specimens are identified by a number corresponding to the Q number, this number having been circled in red.

- Q1 Registered letter No. 11510 for Military Attache from War Department.
- Q2 Registered letter No. 11572 for American Embassy.
- Q3 Registered letter No. 11568 for American Embassy.
- Q4 Department of State Airgram, #A-299
- Q5 Department of State airgram for the American Embassy, Quito.
- Q6 Department of State airgram for the American Embassy, Quito.
- Q7 Letter to Alfred T. Nester, Charge d'Affaires a.i.
- Q8 Letter to Alfred T. Nester, American Charge d'Affaires.
- Q9 State Department letter to Mr. William L. Schurz.
- Q10 Letter to Dr. T. F. Ford, Rubber Development Corporation, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.
- Q11 Two letters to Walker W. Lewry, Special Representative, Rubber Development Corporation, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.
- Q12 Letter to Edwin R. Kinnear from Export-Import Bank of Washington.
- Q13 Letter to Rubber Development Corporation, c/o American Legation, Quito, Ecuador, from Rubber Development Corporation, Washington, D.C.
- Q14 Letter to David Yale, from Department of Agriculture.
- Q15 Letter to American Embassy, Quito, from Dispatch Agent, New York.
- Q16 Letter to Samuel Miller, BW, Quito, from BW, Washington.
- Q17 Letter to American Ambassador, Quito (Correspondence for the Coordination Committee).
- Q18 Department of State envelope to the American Legation, Quito, Ecuador.
- Q19 Tag, seal, etc. for Department of State Pouch No. 2522.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd The cord attached to the seal, Q19, appears to have been cut. It
Mr. Nichols has not been possible to determine the type of instrument used. Neither
Mr. Rosen has it been possible to determine whether the cut was intentional or acci-
Mr. Tracy dental.

Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo Examination of the envelopes revealed no evidence that they had been
Mr. Hendon surreptitiously opened and resealed, except that with reference to Q10 a
Mr. McGuire manila envelope addressed by sticker Frank to Dr. T. F. Ford, Senior Chemist,
Mr. Mumford Rubber Development Corporation, there is a question whether wrinkling of
Mr. Piper the paper of the flap resulted from an excess of water at the time it was
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

originally sealed or subsequent tampering.

Another envelope shows a similar but much lesser wrinkling. The remainder of all the envelopes indicates that there is little effort to be certain of the sealing at the time they are originally closed. Undoubtedly most of them were moistened with sponge or roller moisteners with a surplus of water. If there is too much water the pressure of closing the flap must be maintained for a longer period of time or else there is not enough adhesion to hold. The flap pulls up, in part at least, and then the glue dries before any additional closing pressure is applied. Extreme dryness of the envelopes tends to increase this effect, and it is likely to be accompanied with wetting of the flap for some distance around the glue which wrinkles the paper. All of the envelopes are of the usual type encountered in work in the U.S.A.

It is apparent from the above that the only safety precautions with this mail are the lead sealing of the bag and the label "Diplomatic." As it is a well known, although confidential, fact that British Censorship stations regularly use surreptitious methods toward Diplomatic mail and are equipped to handle seals, this appears inadequate. Such a tampering would not have resulted in apparent disturbance of the string or lead seal.

If suggestions to increase the safety of this mail are desired, it is presumed a request will be made.

Among the envelopes was observed one printed "Department of State, U.S.A." "Air Mail." This had a watermark "EMPIRE BOND, 100% Rag Content." In the design there was also a shield and written phrase "CARTW U.S.A." Attention is invited to this because of the possibility that this type paper may be used in communicating with individuals in Latin America and in the event it came into the possession of anti-American or subversive individuals, the use of the word "EMPIRE" could be misinterpreted and could be used as adverse propaganda. This could be coupled with actual whispering propaganda campaigns of the kind used by Nazi agents. In South America, especially, they are distributing forged printing in imitation of British publications.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

The paper mentioned above is manufactured by the Carew Manufacturing Company, South Hadley Falls, Massachusetts. One hundred per cent rag paper used in an envelope of this kind does not add additional safety qualities from the standpoint of tampering.

If a special envelope is desired for safety, the Bureau's Technical Laboratory has various products which had been tested and the Laboratory would be glad to make known its findings.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



CET:MRK
64-22643-1
D-918

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

April 23, 1943

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson *CC* _____
Mr. Coffey *6* _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY *h*

Re: AIR MAIL POUCH #2522,
Ecuador - Subversive Activities.

Reference is made to a letter from S.I.S. #160 dated March 18, 1943 with which the evidence listed below was submitted to the Bureau for appropriate examination.

64-22643-1 The first eighteen of the following specimens are envelopes, all of which have been opened. All nineteen specimens are identified by a number corresponding to the Q number, this number having been circled in red.

- Q1 Registered letter No. 11510 for Military Attache from War Department.
- Q2 Registered letter No. 11572 for American Embassy.
- Q3 Registered letter No. 11568 for American Embassy.
- Q4 Department of State Airgram, #A-299.
- Q5 Department of State airgram for the American Embassy, Quito.
- Q6 Department of State airgram for the American Embassy, Quito.
- Q7 Letter to Alfred T. Nester, Charge d'Affaires a.i.
- Q8 Letter to Alfred T. Nester, American Charge d'Affaires.
- Q9 State Department letter to Mr. William L. Schurz.
- Q10 Letter to Dr. T. F. Ford, Rubber Development Corporation, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.
- Q11 Two letters to Walker W. Lowry, Special Representative, Rubber Development Corporation, c/o American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.
- Q12 Letter to Edwin R. Kinnear from Export-Import Bank, Washington.
- Q13 Letter to Rubber Development Corporation, c/o American Legation, Quito, Ecuador, from Rubber Development Corporation, Washington, D. C. *65-48647-1X1*
- Q14 Letter to David Yale, from Department of Agriculture, c/o American Embassy, Quito, from Despatch Agent, New York.
- Q15 Letter to Samuel Miller, PEM, Quito, from PEM, Washington.
- Q17 Letter to American Ambassador, Quito (Correspondence for the Coordination Committee).
- Q18 Department of State envelope to the American Legation, Quito, Ecuador.
- Q19 Tag, seal, etc. for Department of State Pouch No. 2522.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010



1 ENCLOSURE

Page Two
Memorandum for Mr. Coffey

The cord attached to the seal, #19, appears to have been cut. It has not been possible to determine the type of instrument used. Neither has it been possible to determine whether the cut was intentional or accidental.

Examination of the envelopes revealed no evidence that they had been surreptitiously opened and resealed, except that with reference to #10 a manila envelope addressed by sticker Frank to Dr. T. F. Ford, Senior Chemist, Rubber Development Corporation, there is a question whether wrinkling of the paper of the flap resulted from an excess of water at the time it was originally sealed or subsequent tampering.

Another envelope shows a similar but much lesser wrinkling. The remainder of all the envelopes indicate that there is little effort to be certain of the sealing at the time they are originally closed. Undoubtedly most of them were moistened with sponge or roller moisteners with a surplus of water. If there is too much water the pressure of closing the flap must be maintained for a longer period of time or else there is not enough adhesion to hold. The flap pulls up, in part at least, and then the glue dries before any additional closing pressure is applied. Extreme dryness of the envelopes tends to increase this effect and it is likely to be accompanied with wetting of the flap for some distance around the glue which wrinkles the paper. All of the envelopes are of the usual types encountered in work in the U.S.A.

It is apparent from the above that the only safety precautions with this mail are the lead sealing of the bag and the label "Diplomatic". As it is a well known, although confidential fact, that British Censorship stations regularly use surreptitious methods toward Diplomatic mail and are equipped to handle seals this appears inadequate. Such a tampering would not have resulted in apparent disturbance of the string or lead seal.

If suggestions to increase the safety of this mail are desired it is presumed a request will be made.

Among the envelopes was observed one printed "Department of State, U.S.A." "Air Mail". This has a watermark "EMPIRE BOND, 100% Rag Content". In the design there is also a shield and written phrase "CAREW U.S.A.". Attention is invited to this because of the impression that officials of the State Department may not be aware of its use, while its appearance in smaller countries could be disadvantageous to the good neighbor policy, as an inadvertent disclosure of intent of the United States officials to create an "Empire". This could be coupled with actual whispering propaganda campaigns, of the kind used by Nazi agents. In South America especially they are distributing forged printing in imitation of British publications. For this reason it might be considered desirable to trace the purchase of this paper. It is manufactured by the Carew Manufacturing Company, South Hadley Falls, Massachusetts. 100% rag paper used in an envelope

Page Three
Memorandum for Mr. Coffey

of this kind does not add additional safety qualities from the standpoint of tampering. A photographic copy of this watermark is attached hereto.

If a special envelope is desired for safety the Laboratory has various products which have been tested and will be glad to make known its findings.

The submitted specimens are attached hereto.

Respectfully,


C. A. Appel

Ransom
LaFayette

0918

PLACE:	DATE:	REPORTED BY:
Quito, Ecuador	March 18 th 1943	#160
TITLE:		CHARACTER:
DIPLOMATIC AIR-MAIL POUCH #2532 QUITO, ECUADOR, MARCH 10, 1943 <i>Security of Communications</i>		Ecuador- Subversive Activities -

SYNOPSIS:

Investigation here in Quito precludes that the pouch was opened for subversive reasons here in Ecuador. Charge d'Affaires has requested investigation in Panama, where the mail was over-nighted in transfer from Miami-Panama run to the Southbound Balboa-Santiago run. Information furnished in detail. All envelopes in pouch are being forwarded for laboratory examination to determine if possible whether or not they were opened and re-sealed. Broken or cut seal also forwarded for laboratory examination. Results of examination requested to be furnished State Department in Washington and this office for furnishing to Charge d'Affaires.

COMMENTS:

a copy of this report is being transmitted to Charge d'Affaires, Quito.

IN STATEMENTS RETAINED IN LAB.

STATUS: *Sub. & S. 566* *State* *4/12* *13* *14* *15* *16* *17* *18* *19* *20* *21* *22* *23* *24* *25* *26* *27* *28* *29* *30* *31* *32* *33* *34* *35* *36* *37* *38* *39* *40* *41* *42* *43* *44* *45* *46* *47* *48* *49* *50* *51* *52* *53* *54* *55* *56* *57* *58* *59* *60* *61* *62* *63* *64* *65* *66* *67* *68* *69* *70* *71* *72* *73* *74* *75* *76* *77* *78* *79* *80* *81* *82* *83* *84* *85* *86* *87* *88* *89* *90* *91* *92* *93* *94* *95* *96* *97* *98* *99* *100*

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010

REFERENCE: Our #174 Radiogram to Bureau dated March 10, 1943, concerning Airmail Pouch #2532.

ENCLOSURE

Made Available to:	Copies:
Charge d'Affaires only.	
() Embassy (Consulate)	5 Bureau
() M. A.	3 Quito

65-48647-TX1

(1)

At Quito, Ecuador

On March 10, 1943, there was received in the American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador, Air-mail Pouch #2522, which had apparently been tampered with. The pouch is a light, small bag of the usual air-mail variety, and comes sealed with a twine, lead seal. The pouch was brought to the Embassy at about 3:30 P.M. by the Post Office agent who meets the Panagra planes for the purpose of getting the air-mail. His name is Eloy PADILLA. He was accompanied on this occasion by the Panagra Airport Manager, Alfonso VASQUEZ.

At the time the pouch was brought to the Embassy, ^{the} ~~this~~ office ^{Legal Attache} was not aware of the situation until the departure of these individuals and for that reason it was not possible to interview them on the spot. Mr. Claude Anthony ROSS, Third Secretary of Embassy, received the pouch and on learning from the persons who brought it to the Embassy that it had been tampered with, or so appeared to have been, he called the writer down to his office to see if it could be determined whether or not any of the mail in the pouch had evidence of having been opened. The writer made a survey of the contents of the pouch, and some letters showed the possibility of having been opened, but, not knowing the conditions of the original sealing of these envelopes, the quantity of water used and the manner of their sealing, it was impossible to say whether the letters had been opened or not.

The list that is attached hereto is a list of the contents of the pouch. This information was taken from a letter sent by the Charge d'Affaires, Alfred T. NESTER, to the State Department, Washington, D. C., requesting a verification of the contents of the pouch, in view of the fact that only the registered pieces of mail contained therein contained an inventory sheet. The other mail was merely sent loose, as is customary, and there is no record in the Embassy here in Quito as to just what was contained in the pouch, other than the three pieces of registered mail.

Mr. ROSS was questioned concerning the manner of the receipt of the pouch, its condition, and the statements made by Mr. PADILLA, who brought the pouch to the Embassy from the Airport. Mr. ROSS stated that the pouch came tied, and that PADILLA stated that when he took the pouch out of the large mail bag containing the mail for Quito, it was noticed that the twine of the seal had been apparently cut and re-tied. It was brought to the Embassy immediately after it was discovered in this condition, and that it was brought to the Embassy in the exact condition as it was when taken from the large mail bag.

From Mr. ROSS, it was learned that a telegram was sent immediately to Mr. Harold L. WILLIAMSON, American Consul General in Guayaquil, for the purpose of advising him of the situation and causing an investigation to take place in Guayaquil. There is being attached hereto the correspondence forwarded to Mr. NESTER by Mr. WILLIAMSON, concerning the situation in Guayaquil. Charge d'Affa'

2

NESTER also cabled Cali, Colombia, requesting an investigation, in view of the fact that it was believed here at that time that the international plane that carried the pouch from Balboa to Guayaquil had overnighted in Cali, one of the regular stops of that run. There is being attached hereto also, a copy of a cable sent from American Consul BOWMAN, Cali, Colombia, to the American Embassy, Quito, with his findings there.

Mr. George MANSFIELD, Operations Manager of Panagra in Quito, was interviewed on March 12, 1943, and it was learned that Luco AGUIRRE, Panagra Dispatcher, had also been present when the pouch was discovered. Mr. MANSFIELD stated that AGUIRRE had told him the story as to what had happened, but that he himself was not present at the arrival of the plane carrying Air-mail Pouch #2522. He said that he was told that Mr. PADILLA, the Post Office representative, discovered the damage to the bag almost immediately as it was taken out of the large mail bag, and that PADILLA then called over the Airport Manager, Alfonso VASQUEZ, who was standing nearby, and that the Dispatcher, AGUIRRE was there and saw the condition of the pouch. Mr. MANSFIELD could not give any further details, and in the course of the conversation, it was suggested that the writer, at the convenience of the company, go out to the airport on the arrival of one of the daily flights from Guayaquil and see the manner in which the mail was received and question the persons who were known to have been present when the pouch was first discovered.

On March 16, 1943, arrangements were made to go to the airport to see the manner in which the mail arrived and the way in which it was handled upon its arrival. This day was selected because the international plane was expected to deliver another air-mail pouch for the American Embassy, and it would give the writer a good opportunity to see exactly how it was handled.

It was observed that the mail, along with other baggage was loaded on a small wagon and carried to the back of the Panagra office. There the baggage was separated from the mail by Panagra employees and the mail was placed in a pile, where the dispatcher, Luco AGUIRRE, sorted out the pieces that were still in transit from those that were to remain in Quito. Mr. Eloy PADILLA, Assistant Air-mail Superintendent for the Ecuadoran mail service, meets the plane daily, and it is his duty to gather up the Quito mail and place it in a large bag for delivery to the Post Office in downtown Quito. There are a number of persons who assist in this job, some of whom are Panagra employees, others taxi drivers of the Chavez Agency, which does all the hauling for the Panagra Company, or anyone else that might be around. The responsibility for the mail rests in the hands of Mr. PADILLA, who checks it and brings it down to the Post office. All this sorting and collecting takes place in the open, in the rear of the Panagra building at the Airport.

Mr. PADILLA was interviewed by the writer while he was gathering up the mail for delivery to the Post Office, and he stated that when he opened the large bag to check the mail therein on March 10, 1943, the Air-mail pouch for the American Embassy was removed, since it was to be delivered on the way to the Post Office. It was at that time that the discovery was made that the seal of

(3)

pouch had been broken or cut and retied. He said that he then called over Mr. VASQUEZ and showed it to him to evidence the fact that he had found it in that condition and that he and Mr. VASQUEZ brought the pouch to the Embassy as soon as he had finished his duties at the airport and gave it to Mr. ROSS, explaining to him the situation. PADILLA could not furnish information concerning the manner in which the mail pouch came down from Miami, and whether or not it had been contained in a sealed bag as far as Guayaquil. He said that the pouch had arrived to Quito in a large white bag containing other mail and that this large bag was not locked or sealed in any way.

① Mr. Lugo AGUIRRE was questioned concerning his knowledge of the occurrence and he affirmed the information previously received. He said that it was his belief that the mail came down from Miami in an open bag destined for Ecuador, and that this could have happened anywhere along the line, possibly where the plane overnighted. It was learned that the Panagra run came straight through from Balboa and made only short stops at Calif and Guayaquil, at which latter point the mail was transferred from the international run to the shuttle plane from Guayaquil to Quito. It was noticed that the pouch that came in that day, March 16, 1943, came in an open bag, and was merely put aside for delivery to the Embassy, just as Mr. PADILLA stated the interested pouch had arrived. Mr. AGUIRRE said that the pouch that had been tampered with came in the same manner. The only time that the pouch in question was not in transit was in Balboa, where the baggage and passengers overnighted to transfer from the Clipper from Miami to Balboa to the Panagra run down the West coast of South America early the next morning. In other words, the pouch was in Balboa over night on the night of March 9, 1943, and continued to Quito the following day, March 10, 1943, where it was received at the airport in Quito in a damaged condition. It was learned from Guayaquil that the transfer from the international plane to the local plane took a little more than an hour and that for the most part of this period the mail was on board either the international or the local plane. <See Williamson's first letter to Nester, 3rd paragraph>.

The attached cable to the American Embassy, Quito, from the American Consul, Calif, Colombia, indicates that the international plane carrying this pouch was in Calif only about 15 minutes and that it was the belief of the Panagra agent there that the mail was carried in the rear compartment in the tail of the ship, precluding any tampering with the mail by crew members of the plane. The cable also indicated that the mail remained overnight in Panama, as stated previously.

The information furnished by Mr. WILLIAMSON of Guayaquil speaks for itself. His second letter indicates that the pouch in question came from Miami to Quito in the general "blue" bag, which carries a seal. This is not true according to the information obtained here in Quito, and our information indicates that the pouch came in an open white general bag from Guayaquil to Quito, and had it been in a general "blue" bag destined for Quito from Miami, it would not have been removed until it had reached Quito. As it was, coming loose from Guayaquil, tends to substantiate the belief that it came in an open bag all the way from Miami.

The information available here does not indicate the probability that the pouch was tampered with in Ecuador, and certainly not Quito. If the information contained in Mr. WILLIAMSON's report is to be taken at face value with regard to the time the pouch was in Guayaquil making the transfer from the international to the local plane, then it is a fair assumption that the pouch was not tampered with in Ecuador, but somewhere else before reaching Ecuador.

All the contents of the bag were carefully examined here in Quito, and the envelopes that were contained therein are being forwarded herewith for an examination by the Technical Laboratory of the Bureau for the purpose of determining if possible, whether or not any of the envelopes give evidence of having been opened and resealed. There is being forwarded also the seal with the twine cut as it was brought to the Embassy. This twine was tied around the pouch keeping the open end closed. It is to be noted that the piece of loose twine is the sealed loop that was cut from both ends, and belongs on the side of the seal where the tag is located. It is requested that this examination be conducted and that the State Department be given the findings of the examination. It is also requested that this office be forwarded a copy of the laboratory finds for presentation to the Charge d'Affaires.

This case will be kept in a PENDING status until the report of the Technical Laboratory is received and Mr. Alfred T. NESTER is appraised of the results thereof.

PENDING

List of Contents of Air-mail Pouch #2522.

1. Registered Letter No. 11510 for Military Attaché from War Department.
2. Registered Letter No. 11572 for American Embassy.
3. Registered Letter No. 11568 for American Embassy.
4. Department Airgram No. A-299, March 8, 1943, 7:30 P.M.
5. Department Circular Airgram of March 6, 1943.
6. Department Circular Airgram of March 8, 1943.
7. Letter to Alfred T. Nester, Charge d'Affaires a.i.
8. Letter to Alfred T. Nester, Charge d'Affaires a.i. from Boaz Long.
9. Letter to William L. Schurz from the Department.
10. Letter to Dr. T. F. Ford, Rubber Development Corp., Quito, from Rubber Development Corp., Washington.
11. Letter to Walerk W. Lawry from Rubber Development Corp., Washington. (2 letters)
12. Letter to Edwin R. Kinnear from Export-Import Bank, Washington.
13. Letter to Rubber Development Corp., Quito, from Rubber Dev. Co., Wash.
14. Letter to David Yale from Department of Agriculture, Washington.
15. Letter to American Embassy from Dispatch Agent, New York.
16. Letter to Samuel Miller, BEW Representative, Quito, from BEW, Washington.
17. Letter to American Ambassador (Correspondence for Coordination Committed, letter No. E-1007, March 5, 1943) from Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.
18. Envelope to American Legation, from Department, containing press releases Nos. 89, 91-94; Departmental Release No. 19.

Note: The attached evidence for Laboratory Examination is numbered in red pencil with a circle around the number, in the same order as the envelopes are listed above. #19 is an envelope containing the broken or cut seal for Laboratory Examination along with the envelopes.

C O P Y

Quito, March 17, 1943

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to inform you that diplomatic pouch #2522 despatched from Washington, March 8, 1943, was received at this Mission on March 10 with the pouch seal cut and retied. None of the registered mail was missing but a strong suspicion exists that the contents of the sack were tampered with, and all of the envelopes which arrived therein are being sent to Washington for examination by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Diplomatic pouch No. 2522 overnighted in Balboa, and presumably the general mail sack for Quito, in which the Department of State pouch was included, was made up at that point. The results of a careful investigation by this Embassy seem to preclude the possibility of tampering having taken place at Quito, Guayaquil or Cali.

It would be appreciated, therefore, if you would take appropriate action in an effort to determine whether any violation of the pouch occurred in Balboa and advise this Embassy of your findings in order that a complete report may be made to the Department at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully yours,

Alfred T. Nester
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

The Honorable
Edwin C. Wilson
American Ambassador
Panama

050
CGR:mf

C O P Y

True Reading

Telegram Received

From: Amconsul, Cali, Colombia

Date: March 10 , 8p.m., 1943

No.: - -

Code: A-1

Received: March 11, 1943

Careful investigation discloses plane carrying air mail sack 2522 remained overnight in Panama and remained at Cali airport about 15 minutes en route to Guayaquil eliminating possibility of tampering with sack here. Panagra agent almost certain that mail was placed in _____ after compartment _____ which eliminates possible tampering by crew members.

Full report follows by mail."

Bowman

Decoded by HS:hs

The following are pertinent excerpts from the first letter of American Consul General, Guayaquil, Harold L. WILLIAMSON, to Charge d'Affaires, Alfred T. Nester, dated March 11, 1943.

2nd Par. ...I conferred in the matter (March 11, 1943) with Mr. Fausto Moscoso, manager of Grace and Company and with Mr. Wayne Ballantyne, Panagra representative in this city. Thereafter, accompanied by the two gentlemen in question, I proceeded to the airfield in order to make a firsthand investigation of conditions and spent the entire morning at the field. Owing to the peculiar situation with regard to the plane service and the mails which prevailed yesterday, it is my conclusion that it is established beyond reasonable doubt that the pouch could not have been tampered with at either Guayaquil or Cali and that it is unlikely that any violation could have occurred at Balboa, so that the damage to the seal, unless it was caused by natural accident enroute, seemingly must have transpired either at Miami or at Quito. The findings are given in some detail below for your complete information.

3rd Par. The Southbound plane yesterday arrived at Guayaquil somewhat late, or to be precise, at 12:15 p.m. The local shuttle plane had already arrived at Guayaquil at 11:34 a.m. and left for Quito at 1:37 p.m. subsequent to awaiting connection with the Northbound international plane. In consequence, the mail from the United States for Quito was in this instance transferred almost directly from the incoming Southbound plane to the local plane for Quito, which was, as stated, already on hand. I talked personally with the Panagra mail despatchers and learned that the mail for Quito was not even brought into the airbase building but was checked on the platform and loaded within a period of not more than five minutes directly on to the shuttle plane for the capital. Moreover, in yesterday's instance, the diplomatic air pouch for the Embassy was not shipped as a separate mail package but was evidently contained in the large blue silk airmail sack containing general airmail for Quito which was made up in Miami and sealed at that airport for its journey through to Quito. In consequence, anyone who attempted to tamper with the diplomatic pouch in Guayaquil would have had first to break the seal on the general bag to find the diplomatic pouch and cut that seal.....

4th Par. ...from the time the airmail leaves Miami until it arrives in Quito, it is constantly in the charge of Pan American Airways and/or Panagra authorities and that the postal officials of the countries through which the planes pass at no time take custody of the mails. In the instance at issue the mails were forced to overnight at Balboa, Panama, but it is presumed that the Pan American Airways maintain at that point a container for the safeguarding of the mails.... Furthermore, on account of the delay in leaving Panama, the Southbound plane did not as usual overnight in Cali, Colombia. For this reason no through mail was taken out of the plane during the brief halt at Cali.

The following are pertinent excerpts from the second letter of American Consul General, Guayaquil, Harold L. WILLIAMSON, to Charge d'Affaires, Alfred T. Nester, dated March 13, 1943:

-----V-----

2nd Par. Vice Consul Cottell has just arrived from the Embassy and has informed me that for about a week there has been in effect an arrangement whereby the pouch is delivered to the Embassy by a Panagra official without passing through the hands of the Post Office.it would seem that the Panagra men came direct to you in considerable anxiety because they had found the pouch with its seal cut. This would seem to preclude any strong probability that the offense occurred at the Quito end....

3rd Par. ...I am still convinced that it is highly improbable in this particular case that the tampering with the pouch could have taken place in Guayaquil. The reasons for this conclusion were advanced in my letter of the eleventh, wherein it was shown that the mail was transferred almost directly from the international plane to the shuttle plane. Similarly, the fact that the international plane allegedly went through Cali without more than a routine stop would appear to eliminate Cali from our calculations....



6-4647-181-

21

65-48647-1X1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U. S. A.

AIR MAIL

French

Alfred T. Nester, Esquire,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim,
American Embassy,
Quito, Ecuador.

(7)

RECEIVED

65-48647-781

Handwritten:
~~Confidential~~
Off
Wahy
BB
Heur

PLACE:

DATE:

REPORTED BY:

Bogotá, Colombia March 13, 1943

332

TITLE:

CHARACTER:

**UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
(Mail Tampering Panagra Air Lines)
3-10-43**

Colombia - Mail Tampering
Miscellaneous

SYNOPSIS:

Cali advised 3-11-43 by telegram, air mail sack No. 2522 dispatched from Washington to Quito had arrived in Quito on 3-10-43 with seal out. Inquiry at Cali revealed plane only stopped in Colombia for 15 minutes and that mail was sealed in aft compartment from Balboa to Guayaquil.

COMMENTS:

Reliable

STATUS:

C

REFERENCE:

65-48647-1X

8 APR 19 1943

Made Available to:

Copies:

DECLASSIFIED BY: *1000*
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DATE 08-29-2010

() Other

**2-Washington
2-Quito
1-M.A.
1-I.S. Bogotá
1-I.S. Cali**

75 MAY 17 1943

DETAILS: Cont'd.

Inasmuch as no further investigation is deemed necessary in the Bogotá area, this case is being closed.

C L O S E D

DETAILS:

The following report was predicated upon the receipt of the telegram in the office of the United States Consulate at Cali, Colombia on March 11, 1943 which advised the Cali Consulate of the fact that air mail sack No. 2522 dispatched from Washington on March 8 for Quito, Ecuador arrived at Quito on March 10, 1943 with the pouch seal cut. It was further suggested that the pouch was tampered with in Cali where the plane was scheduled to overnight or in Guayaquil where the mail was transferred from international plane to local plane for forwarding to Quito.

Mr. John C. Stoddard, manager of the Corporacion Maritima Colombiana, which corporation serves as agents for Panagra Air Lines in Cali, Colombia, was immediately contacted at which time Mr. Stoddard advised and furnished the following information in writing:

"This is to certify that the southbound plane of March 10th operated on delayed schedule having overnighted the previous night in Balboa and passing through Cali at about 9 a.m. The plane remained in Cali approximately 15 minutes.

"All mail and cargo for Guayaquil and Quito were apparently loaded in the rear compartment of the plane, as is the customary practice of Balboa when the plane operates on delayed schedule. This compartment was not opened when the plane passed through Cali in transit, as all the baggage, cargo, and mail destined for Cali were located in the front compartment. We have no record of diplomatic mail being on the plane and destined for Quito, but we believe that this mail must have been in the rear compartment of the plane.

"The crew of this plane was the following: Captain Jardine, Co-Pilot Bentsen, Radio-Operator Frowe, Purser (from Balboa to Cali) T. Avant, from Cali south - Rouillon.

"We regret that we cannot give any further information as to the handling of the mail destined to Quito."

Mr. Stoddard added further that he personally felt sure of the integrity of the entire crew aboard the southbound plane on March 10, 1943 and also he personally could vouch for the supervisors of the mail of his Company which are responsible for the handling of the mail at the Cali airport.

The above information was forwarded to Washington and Quito by telegram on March 11, 1943.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JAM:AF

March 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: State Department Inquiry Concerning
Safeguarding Courier Diplomatic Pouches

Reference is made to the attached memorandum
dated March 3, 1943, for Mr. Burton by Mr. Roach.

There are set out in the attached blind
memorandum certain suggestions which you might desire to
make available to the State Department.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey
E. P. Coffey.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Piper _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010



53 APR 1 1943

RECORDED

52

EX-42

JAM:AF

MEMORANDUM

Re: ~~Suggestions for Security of Courier Service~~

There are set forth below several suggested methods of transmitting written material which may lend themselves to various degrees of security:

1. Where documentary evidence is carried in the conventional brief-case, it may be made more secure by attaching it permanently to the person of the courier in such manner that he cannot become free of it by ordinary means. A fabric covered chain can be utilized, attaching one end to the bag and locking the other around the body or wrist of the courier. The courier should not have the key to open the lock, only the sender and recipient having such keys. It should be borne in mind that no matter what mechanical method is used to fasten a pouch to the courier or what mechanical obstacles are placed to prevent illicit entry of the pouch, both methods of protection may be overcome provided the enemy has sufficient time. Consideration might be given, therefore, to other methods of protection.

2. The documents could conceivably be carried in an acid-proof container equipped with a liquid such as sulphuric acid which might be liberated by a trigger mechanism. In the event the courier senses danger he can press or release the trigger mechanism thereby flooding the documents with acid which would destroy them. Another variation of this trigger mechanism would be a timing device which would liberate the acid. This timing device could be retarded by periodic resetting on the part of the courier. This would mean that if the courier should be killed suddenly or rendered unconscious the acid would be released at the end of a certain period of time because the trigger mechanism had not been reset by him.

3. Consideration might be given to cutting each document in two pieces—one courier taking one piece and the second courier taking the other. This would mean that the enemy would have to secure both parcels in order to be able to read the documents with any degree of accuracy. Under this set-up the same physical precautions could be taken as are set out under heading #1.

4. Subterfuge might be utilized by having the courier carry innocent papers in the conventional brief-case whereas the genuine papers are concealed on his person. This concealment might be accomplished either by his actually hiding the original document or by reducing the document in size on photographic film and concealing this film. The enemy supposedly would make away with the brief-case believing it to contain the real document. Another modification of this plan would be to have the courier carry the document secretly concealed on his person and have a second purported courier carry the brief-case.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hedgcock
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

EX-42

5. Photographic reduction of documents where practicable constitutes a method of concealment. With the use of such a camera as the Leica or any other 35 mm. camera or by use of the Photorecord camera, the documents can be quickly photographed, and the negative is in the form of a 35 mm. film which is slightly larger than a postage stamp. Such film can be developed and subsequently

transported in a very small space. It is possible, for instance, for such film to be hidden in a man's watch. A small metal container could be utilized for carrying the film, which could then be strapped to the courier's body underneath his clothing. Another modification of this system would be for the film container to be equipped with a vial of sulphuric acid which could be released by a trigger mechanism when danger is sensed.

It is realized, of course, that any system of concealment or transmittal of material by courier is effective only as long as the enemy does not understand the system being used. It is to be expected that the enemy would make every effort to find out how such material is being transmitted and to be on the safe side it must be assumed that he would ascertain the method of transmission in a short period of time. Therefore, consideration must be given to changing the method of transmission of such material from time to time so as to confuse the enemy.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



RFR:ems

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

March 3, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BURTON

Re: STATE DEPARTMENT INQUIRY CONCERNING
SAFEGUARDING OF COURIER DIPLOMATIC POUCHES

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Mr. Jack Neal of the State Department called the writer and advised that the State Department officials were greatly concerned over the disappearance of the contents of a diplomatic courier pouch as a result of the crash of the Yankee Clipper in Lisbon Harbor recently. Due to this unfortunate incident, State Department officials are now working out means for safeguarding diplomatic courier pouches and have requested that the Bureau pass on to the State Department any suggestions that may be advanced which would tend to secure the contents of diplomatic pouches and particularly with reference to the securing of a pouch to the courier. State Department officials have in mind some sort of device whereby the pouch will be fastened to the courier's wrist or other portions of his body by means of a leather or metal strap. Mr. Neal requested that this matter be considered by the Bureau's technical laboratory and that suggestions be given to the State Department along these lines. As a matter of interest, Mr. Neal informed the writer that the State Department had a courier on the Yankee Clipper that crashed in Lisbon Harbor and after diligent search, the pouch, which formerly contained highly confidential State Department papers, was found with its locks broken and dispatches missing. The courier, however, has not been found to date.

It is suggested that this matter be referred to the technical laboratory for any information they may care to give to the State Department. It is requested that the writer be informed as to whether the Bureau desires to transmit any recommendation to the State Department, so he may in turn pass them on to Mr. Neal.

Respectfully,

R. R. Roach

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DATE 08-20-2010



RECORDED
&
INDEXED

COPIES

RECEIVED

65-48647-100

July 9, 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA REGISTERED AIR MAIL

RECORDED

EX-111

SIS #111

WILLIAM J. CLEGG

Re: SECURITY OF MAIL
ADMINISTRATIVE

Dear Sir:

For your information the Bureau recently received a damaged manila envelope containing mail from your office. In view of the possibility that the envelope had been opened by unauthorized persons, it was submitted to the laboratory for examination.

In a memorandum dated July 5, 1943, the laboratory advised that there was no positive indication that the envelope had been improperly opened and it was suggested that the damage was caused by the fact that many enclosures were placed in the envelope. It was not believed that all of the worn spots and tears on the surface of the envelope could have occurred during the usual method of transmission. It is suggested that in the future only a few enclosures be placed in manila envelopes and that new envelopes be used. In the event that an envelope is opened and thereafter ressealed by your office prior to transmittal, it is desired that you advise the Bureau to this effect as an explanation of the appearance of such envelope.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 2 PM
July 10, 1943

53 JUN 10 1943

COPY b

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CET:VRJ
D2476

July 5, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. COFFEY

Re: Torn envelope addressed to
Director, F.B.I., Washington, D. C.

Reference is made to a routing slip from Supervisor [redacted] dated May 15, 1943 submitting the evidence listed below to the Laboratory for an appropriate examination as to the opening of the envelope.

b6
b7C

Q1 Envelope received in the Bureau from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the upper, lower and left sides torn.

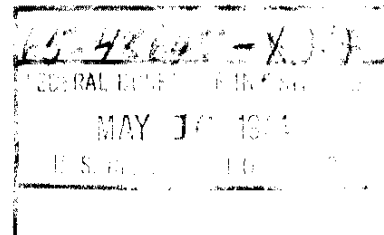
It was concluded that the envelope was opened on the left seam and resealed (this is the flap fastened at the factory). The envelope subsequently appears to have been opened again at the same seam by cutting and then tearing, and then bound together again by scotch tape. There probably were too many enclosures in the envelope which were banded around considerably but nevertheless it does not appear that this could have caused all of the worn spots and tears over the surface, some of which may have been simulated.

The main flap was fastened irregularly and apparently more than once with additional glue.

It is suggested that only a few enclosures should be placed in such envelopes which of themselves offer no protection whatever. Scotch tape also is no protection for the envelope. Had the envelope been opened by usual steaming methods and ordinary care no evidence such as was found would be present.

The Bureau has a supply of envelopes which are sealed by special methods. These, when properly closed, cannot be opened by steaming or any solvent because of the nature of the glue. Envelopes such as these should be used in such circumstances.

The submitted specimen is attached hereto for the attention of Supervisor Tuohy.



F.B.I. RADIOGRAM

DECODED COPY

FROM QUITO 3-11-43 NR 174 1:02 PM

EW

MR. TOLSON _____
MR. E.A. TAMM _____
MR. CLEGG _____
MR. GLAVIN _____
MR. LADD _____
MR. NICHOLS _____
MR. TRACY _____
MR. ROSEN _____
MR. CARSON _____
MR. DOFFEY _____
MR. HENDON _____
MR. KRAMER _____
MR. MC GUIRE _____
MR. QUINN TAMM _____
MR. NEASE _____
MISS GANDY _____

AIR MAIL POUCH NUMBER 2522 FOR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, QUITO ECUADOR, THAT LEFT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MARCH 8, ARRIVED QUITO MARCH 10, WITH CORD TYPE SEAL BROKEN, AND CORD TIED TO KEEP BAG CLOSED. POUCH CONTAINED THREE PIECES OF REGISTERED MAIL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE NOT LISTED. BUT NO BUREAU MAIL WAS INCLUDED. EMBASSY IS MAKING A CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ALL MAIL SENT IN THIS POUCH WAS RECEIVED HERE IN QUITO. ALTHOUGH SOME LETTER INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING BEEN TAMPERED WITH, IT IS BELIEVED UNLIKELY SINCE POUCH CAME THROUGH SAME DAY FROM QUAYAQUIL.

INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED HERE TO DETERMINE IF POSSIBLE THE DETAILS CONCERNING THE BREAKING OR CUTTING OF SEAL. ENVELOPE OF CORRESPONDENCE CONTAINED IN THIS POUCH IS BEING FURNISHED THE BUREAU LABORATORY FOR EXAMINATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THIS CORRESPONDENCE WAS OPENED. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. FROM 386

RECEIVED 3-11-43

1:10 PM

EW

VEJ

Telephoned to State who will check to see if any Bureau mail is in Pouch.
3/11/43
72
30 MAR 30 1943

65-157-111

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 25 1943

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

JD:RC

New York, N. Y.
February 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. C. H. CARSON:

On February 19, 1943, the writer received from the Bureau a letter for transmittal to John C. Phillips, Liverpool 110, Apartment #2, Mexico, D.F. This letter when received by the writer was sealed. The purpose of the Bureau's transmitting this letter to the writer was that it be placed in the hands of Postal Censors in New York City for transmittal to Mexico without reading by the censors.

Prior to the writer's assignment to New York City arrangements had been perfected with Major Basil E. Moore of Postal Censorship for the handling of all mail to Bureau under cover agents in Latin America. This was done so that the mail would appear to be censored upon its arrival to the various foreign countries to which it might be addressed.

The letter to John C. Phillips was placed in a large manilla envelope addressed to Major Basil E. Moore, Postal Censorship, 7th Avenue and 24th Street, New York City, and this document was registered at the Rockefeller Center station February 19th, Registration #526213.

On February 23rd Miss A. Brady of the Office of Censorship telephonically advised the writer that she had received the registered envelope opened and that the enclosure (the Bureau code letter to John C. Phillips) had likewise been opened. At the request of the writer Miss Brady returned both the letter to Phillips and the large manilla envelope addressed to Major Moore.

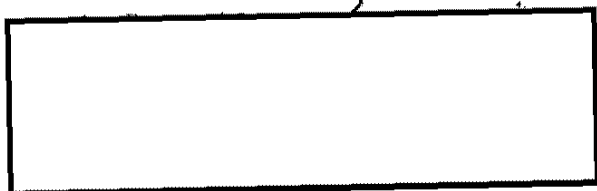
The writer is transmitting both of these documents to the Bureau for whatever action is deemed appropriate in the premises. *100-117641-720*

RECORDED
If it is deemed advisable the writer will make the necessary arrangements to institute an investigation through the Postal authorities to ascertain who might be tampering with the Bureau's mail. In this effect it should be borne in mind that approximately twenty-five letters of this nature are transmitted weekly to the Postal Censors without any of the letters being reported to the writer as being tampered with. It might well be that some clerk in Postal Censorship opened the attached documents by mistake. *b6 b7C*

It should be noted that the writer requested to advise him immediately of any further letters of this nature and found to be tampered with upon receipt by the Office of Postal Censorship. *b6 b7C*

Attachments

70 FEB 20 1943



b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

[REDACTED]
P. O. Box 735
Grand Central Annex
New York City

Major Basil E. Moore
Postal Censorship
7th Ave. & 24th Street
New York City

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

546218
JUN 11 1964
NEW YORK

ALL: LHM

65-4447-X11

RECORDED

March 19, 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA DIPLOMATIC POUCH

SIS 111

/ RL: Spencer Mail
Brazil Administrative

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter from Victoria, Brazil dated Feb. 3, 1943, which pertains to the opening of a letter addressed to the Vici office containing agreements between the FBI, OAI, and Military Intelligence Division for the coordinating of intelligence operations in the western hemisphere. Four questionable pieces of paper were transmitted to the Bureau with the above information in order that an examination might be made to determine whether or not they were torn from the two envelopes referred to by the Victoria representative. The Bureau does not believe that a Laboratory examination of the specimens submitted would be practical or serve any useful purpose in this instance. They are, therefore not being sent to the Technical Laboratory.

On the basis of the information which the Bureau has in its possession, it appears that the envelope containing the above mentioned document was opened in the Embassy mail room in Rio de Janeiro, rather than during the time that it was in the custody of the naval courier. It is requested that you report any additional information which you have been able to develop in connection with this matter at Rio de Janeiro. The instance case is not considered to be of sufficient importance to warrant extensive additional investigation. However, the utmost care and caution should be taken to make certain that a similar situation will not arise again.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Victoria, Brazil
February 3, 1943

Dear Sir:

Re: Opened Mail

Reference is made to a letter to the Bureau from W. J. Bradley, dated January 29, 1943 at Rio de Janeiro, regarding the opening of a letter addressed to the Victoria office containing agreements of the Bureau, ONI, and MID, for the coordinating of intelligence operations in the Western Hemisphere.

As has previously been stated, the agreements were enclosed in an envelope addressed to me at the American Vice Consulate, Victoria, Via Courier, Personal and Confidential, and according to the reference letter, a personal letter addressed to me at the Embassy was enclosed therewith at the same time. Upon receipt of the above mentioned envelope in the Embassy mail room, the same was enclosed in another identical envelope, was addressed to the Consulado Americano, Caixa Postal 146, Victoria, Espirito Santo by the use of a rubber stamp, and was stamped with the Embassy seal on the back thereof. Subsequently, this envelope was transmitted unopened to the Victoria office via the Naval Courier service of the Naval Attache's Office in Rio de Janeiro.

This envelope, upon its receipt at the Vice Consulate in Victoria, was opened by the American Vice Consul to whom it was addressed. He advised that upon extracting the envelope contained therein, he noticed that it had been opened. This was supposedly done in the Embassy mail room for the purpose of inserting therein the above referred to personal letter which was jutting from the envelope. At that time it was not known that the personal letter had originally been enclosed therewith. Upon noticing that the envelope addressed to me, he placed it in the safe with other mail which arrived under separate cover from the Rio office at the same time. When he advised me that he had found the inner envelope addressed to me opened, he furnished the outer envelope which was addressed to the Consulate. Both of these envelopes have been transmitted to the Bureau as enclosures with reference letter of January 29, 1943.

Inasmuch as the outer envelope arrived at this office unopened, and bearing the Embassy seal, it was felt that the

Page 2

inner envelope was possibly opened in the Embassy mail room in Rio de Janeiro, either by mistake or possibly intentionally for the insertion of the personal letter which was contained therein. It was further felt that the fact the unopened envelope bore the Embassy Seal would preclude the possibility of the inner envelope having been opened while in the care of the Naval Courier.

Consideration had been given relative to the observation made in the letter of reference, that the instrument used to open the outer envelope apparently opened both of the envelope at the same time. Although it is highly possible that this could have occurred, especially since the envelope contained

therein was the same size as the outer envelope, it is believed that the Vice Consul would have not opened both envelope at once. The outer envelope was opened either by a pair of scissors or a metal letter opener.

A search has been made by me through the accumulated waste paper of the Vice Consulate in an effort to obtain pieces torn from the outer envelope when it was opened in the Consulate. It was felt that perhaps if the inner envelope was unknowingly opened at the same time the outer envelope was opened, the pieces torn from both envelopes would be found.

After a process of elimination four pieces remain which could possibly have been torn from the envelopes in question. It is noted that one piece appears to be the glued flap of an envelope, and that there is attached thereto a part of the same envelope, or possibly a part of another envelope, which upon being sealed therein, became glued to the flap of the outer envelope. Two of the other pieces appear to have come from the top of envelopes and to have been detached therefrom by the same instrument. These four questionable pieces of paper are being furnished as an enclosure with this letter so the Bureau might effect an examination to ascertain whether or not they were torn from the envelopes in question.

I have discreetly discussed this matter with the Naval Observer, Lt. Joseph E. Rich, in accordance with the recommendation contained in the letter of reference. Lt. Rich had already been apprised of the matter by the Naval Attache's office, and was greatly concerned as to whether any of his personnel had opened the letter. He was advised that because of the Embassy Seal on the outer envelope, it would not have been possible for the inner envelope to have been opened after it left the Embassy and was in the care of Naval

Page 3

b6
b7C

personnel, for there was no reason to suspect that the outer envelope had been opened or tampered with while enroute. I am well acquainted with Lt. Rich and all members of his office and have no reason to believe or even suspect that the letter was opened by any of them.
Enclosure

Very truly yours,

cc Rio



Rio de Janeiro
January 29, 1943

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a letter received from A-20 at Victoria, dated Jan. 14, 1943, and a cable previously received by this office dated Jan. 13, 1943, regarding the fact that my letter to A-20 containing agreements between the Bureau, Mid, and ONI for correlating special intelligence operations in the Western Hemisphere had been opened, apparently in the mail room of the Embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

The envelopes in which said agreements were transmitted were returned by A-20 to this office as an enclosure to his letter of January 14 and since that time I have been making a thorough investigation of the matter in order to determine how the same occurred.

The envelope enclosing the agreements likewise contained a personal letter addressed to A-20 at the Embassy and both the agreements and this personal letter were enclosed in the original envelope addressed to A-20 at the American Vice Consulate, Victoria, Via Courier, Personal and Confidential. Mr. Maynard Andrus, who is in charge of the receipt and distribution of courier mail in the Embassy, advised that upon receipt of the above mentioned envelope from this office the same was inserted in another envelope, which envelope bore the Embassy stamp and seal on the front and the back thereof.

The words Consulado Americano, Caixa Postal 146, Victoria, Espirito Santo, were stamped on the front of the outer envelope at the Embassy at the time this letter was turned over by Mr. Andrus to the mail room of the Naval Attache's office. (As you have been previously advised by A-20, the courier service between Rio and Victoria is carried out by a Navy Courier who travels on a Navy plane.) I have personally checked this matter with Major Ridge, Intelligence Officer of the Military Attache's office, and he has advised me upon making an investigation of his mailroom personnel that the letter was not opened at Rio and that the only place where it might possibly have been opened, by mistake, was at the Naval Observer's office in Victoria where all courier mail is originally received. It should be noted, however,

65-4111-111

would be involved since he does not have, as far as is known, any United States Embassy stamps or seals. Discreet inquiries have been made through Mr. Andrus, in whom I have complete confidence, as to whether the Naval Attache's mail room personnel were in any wise involved, however, the results were entirely negative.

Upon an examination of the two envelopes returned to this office by A-20, which are the envelopes hereinabove referred to, it would seem to appear that both of these envelopes were opened together at the same time, that is, the object used in opening the envelopes opened both of them at once. These envelopes are being forwarded herewith.

It is recommended that A-20 discreetly inquire of the Naval Observer at Victoria in regard to any knowledge he may have concerning the above matter. Major Ridge, himself, suggested that the Naval Observer be contacted.

Respectfully,

W. J. Bradley

Victoria, Brazil
January 24, 1943

Mr. W. J. Bradley,
American Embassy,
Rio de Janeiro

Dear Sir:

Re; Opened Mail

Reference is made to my telegram of January 13, 1943 advising that your communication dated December 31, 1942, transmitting the secret agreements reached between FBI and MID for the operation of a Network to locate Clandestine Radio Stations in Latin America, dated December 1, 1942:

and an agreement between MID, ONI, FBI, for Coordinating Special Intelligence Operations in the Western Hemisphere, dated November 25, 1942 had been opened, apparently in the mail room of the Embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

The envelope of the letter in reference, which was addressed to me at the American Vice Consulate, Victoria, Via Courier, Personal and Confidential, had been torn open across the top in such a way as to make it useless for the transmittal of mail, and a personal letter from home addressed to me at the Embassy was inserted into it. Thereafter, the original envelope containing your letter and the the personal letter was inserted into another identical envelope and addressed with a rubber stamp as follows: "Consulado Americano, /Caixa Postal 146, Victoria, Espirito Santo". This envelope bears the Embassy seal on its back, which would preclude the possibility of the inner envelope having been opened after it left the Embassy and was in the care of the Naval Courier.

It is conceivable that the letter was opened by mistake in the mail room, or possibly was opened intentionally for the insertion of the personal letter which accompanied it. However, the latter appears unlikely, for the envelope was opened in such a manner as to render it worthless and make it necessary to place both letters in another envelope. In any event, the undesirability of having Bureau letters marked "Personal and Confidential" opened in the mail room is obvious. The two envelopes in question are being returned to you with the letter in the event you deem it advisable to make inquiry into the matter.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010

Best Copy

RECORDED

65-4847-X.16

page 2

For the information of the Bureau the following is a paraphrase of the above referred to telegram addressed to Rio on January 13, 1943: "Letter containing agreements between Bureau, MID, ONI, was opened,

placed in another envelope bearing Embassy seal, and addressed to Vice Consul. Possibly opened in Embassy mail room by mistake".

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

No. 15

Inclosures
cc Bureau

b6
b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington, D. C.

December 4, 1942

HMK:MJL

Call: 10:40 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: LETTER FROM STATE DEPARTMENT
DATED November 18, 1942
State Department Reference:
PA 051.25/75

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Today I called Mr. Fred Lyon of the State Department with reference to the above captioned letter, wherein the Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable Secretary of War in transmitting a copy of a dispatch from the American Ambassador at San Diego, Chile.

The American Ambassador reports the receipt of a diplomatic pouch from the Department of State, the seal of which had been tampered with in transit. The pouch was dispatched from the State Department on August 27, 1942 and was routed via New Orleans. Because of an inadequate supply of locks on hand at the time the pouch was dispatched lead sealed and not locked. It would be appreciated if the War Department would make an investigation of this matter and inform the Department of State of its findings.

I asked Mr. Lyon if he would take this matter up with the Foreign Service Administration and see if they want us to make an investigation of this matter. Mr. Lyon said that he would do this, and thanked me for bringing this matter to his attention.

Respectfully,

H. M. Kimball



JAN 11 1943

NOV 18 1942

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



GCB: EEM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

November 28, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CUNNINGHAM

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

There are attached photostatic copies of a communication from the State Department to the Secretary of War with reference to tampering with a State Department diplomatic pouch which was dispatched from the State Department on August 27, 1942, via New Orleans. You will note therein that the State Department has requested the War Department to make an investigation of the matter and inform the State Department of the findings.

Colonel Bissell handed the original of this to the writer with the advice that he felt this was not a matter in which G-2 had jurisdiction and desired to turn it over to the Bureau for whatever action the Bureau considered advisable. He stated that a reply would be prepared for Secretary Stinson's signature advising the State Department that they felt this matter was one for the FBI to handle. He further stated that he was calling this to the Bureau's attention in case the State Department approached the Bureau with reference to this investigation.

Respectfully,

G. C. Burton

Attachment



55 JAN 14 1943

345

D. L: mm

September 29, 1942

Handwritten: Mr. Carroll

GENERAL STROUT TO THE DIRECTOR

In connection with the attached call from General Strout of 9-2, I desire to advise that I attended the meeting of the Joint Intelligence Conference Committee in the Public Health Building during their discussion of a recommendation which had been made by the Treasury Department to the effect that the use of the diplomatic pouch be denied to all countries and that all mail placed in these pouches be subject to examination. There were present at this meeting General Strout, Admiral Train, Mr. Telle, Colonel Edward Tuxton of OSS, a representative of DOW, and as I arrived, Mr. Gaston of the Treasury Department was just leaving. The Treasury Department had submitted this suggestion in connection with the handling of foreign funds cases inasmuch as they were fearful that currency was being transmitted through the pouch.

Handwritten: 9/23

General Strout stated that, from the intelligence and operational standpoint, Military Intelligence could get along without using the pouch; that most certainly if such steps were taken by the United States, - other countries would retaliate as far as the use of the diplomatic pouch was concerned on the part of those countries, and the United States would not be able to bring material from any foreign country to the United States in the pouch or transmit information or material from the United States to any other country; that the only place in which the Military Intelligence Division would be cramped as a result of such retaliation would be in their inability to supply code and cipher pads to their various representatives throughout the country and that it would be impossible to get these code and cipher pads to them unless the pouch could be utilized.

Admiral Train stated that, from the Navy standpoint, he was very much opposed to stopping the use of the diplomatic pouch on the part of all countries inasmuch as the Navy made extensive use of the pouch in transmitting their information; that from some countries they received as much as 300 pounds of mail per week through the pouch.

Mr. Telle stated that, in the event the proposal was adopted, it would mean that the use of the diplomatic pouch from countries in South America to the United States would be shut off; that the operation of

65-42647-215
NOV 27 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Handwritten: Diplomatic Pouch

77 DEC 1 1942

the Bureau's radio stations in South America would be stopped; that the State Department would be very much opposed to the Treasury's suggestion.

I was asked for the views of the FBI with reference to this matter, and I stated that, from an intelligence standpoint, the Bureau felt that the intelligence information which was being transmitted through the use of the diplomatic pouch on the part of certain representatives in the United States should be shut off; that there was considerable intelligence information going out through the pouches of certain countries, such as the Spanish and Swedish and that it was believed that, from a strictly intelligence standpoint, these countries should be prohibited the use of the diplomatic pouch. I stated that certain information being sent out was known and had been made known in turn to the military services; that obviously all of the material going out through the pouches was not known inasmuch as it was not possible, under the present arrangements, to obtain access to all of this material. How much valuable information was going out that was not available to the intelligence agencies was not known. General Strong, Admiral Train, and Mr. Clegg all again pointed out that they were aware of the fact that certain intelligence information was going out; that a considerable quantity of the material going out was not available but that, knowing this, they felt, from their standpoint--that of military operations -- it would be disastrous, at this time, to stop the use of the diplomatic pouch on the part of all of the countries. I again pointed out that the ideal situation, from an intelligence standpoint, would be to shut the channels which we knew were sending out espionage information but that if the armed services felt that this would be highly disastrous, the FBI would defer to their judgment with reference to this matter.

Mr. Clegg and the others present pointed out that it was not possible to shut off the use of the pouch to a particular country; that if it were done, it would have to apply to all countries and that this, of course, would likewise shut off the use of the pouch from the South American countries to the United States on the part of the FBI and naturally would seriously handicap the transmission of reports from FBI Agents in South America.

I made it plain that the Bureau's position was in favor of shutting off these channels for the transmission of espionage material but that, in view of the statement of the armed services that it would be disastrous to the military effort at this time, the FBI was deferring to their judgment.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Attachment

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



GDG:JBW:PJ

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington, D. C.

April 7, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gephart _____
Miss Gandy _____

There is attached hereto New York submission slip #6531-42 which contains comments on a letter from "A L", Guatemala City, Guatemala, dated January 30, 1942, to A.B. Jameson, P.O. Box 107, Station F, 221 East 34th Street, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

The original letter was first brought to the attention of this office by Mr. John Tedford, the Office of Censorship, who telephonically inquired as to whether or not our White List was complete and as to whether an A.B. Jameson appeared thereon. A check of the White List reflected no name as A.B. Jameson, and Mr. Tedford was so advised. Mr. Tedford informed that they had intercepted a communication directed to A.B. Jameson, the contents of which read quite similarly to those of several other letters from individuals on SIS assignments which had been inadvertently censored. Mr. Tedford advised that he would forward a copy of the submission slip to this office.

Thereafter, Mr. Collier of Mr. Holloman's office was telephonically contacted and it was determined that the original letter upon which this submission slip was based was from an individual on SIS assignment in Guatemala, and Mr. Collier indicated that it was quite common for individuals on such assignments to forward their correspondence to the Bureau and not use the names appearing on the White List although the addresses of the mail drops are correct. For your information the Office of Censorship checks correspondence against the "names" appearing on the White List and not the "addresses." The address appearing on the White List is used by the Office of Censorship to definitely determine if a piece of correspondence is going to an individual whose name appears on the White List.

RECOMMENDATION: It is suggested that as a precautionary measure to insure further against the tampering of mail of individuals on such assignments by censors, you may wish to issue instructions to have all correspondence from those individuals forwarded to the Bureau exclusively through the names and addresses appearing on the White List.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Clegg

H. H. Clegg

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 29 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

4 AUG 7 1942

(U)

here

April 2, 1942

~~SECRET~~

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

MR. LADD

Re: [Suspected British Intelligence Activities
relative to United States Diplomatic Pouch]

(U)

BACKGROUND

The following facts are based upon the writer's observation during his recent survey in Latin America.

(U)

FACTS

While in Quito, Ecuador, the writer ascertained in conversation with [redacted] that he, [redacted] and Second Secretary [redacted] of the American Embassy believed that representatives of the British Intelligence Service were clandestinely opening and reading the contents of the American diplomatic pouches traveling to and from the United States.

(U)

[redacted] stated that it was suspected that the English were doing this in Guayaquil, Ecuador, a point at which the American air mail diplomatic pouch is transferred from the Quito plane to the West Coast International plane. [redacted] was unable to advise of any further details along these lines.

(U)

While in Lima, Peru, it was ascertained that representatives of the British Intelligence Service have exhibited to the United States Ambassador at Lima photostatic copies of letters written by [redacted] to a cover post office box in New York City. Additional letters from [redacted] United States Ambassador at Lima, Peru, were likewise exhibited to the [redacted]

(U)

The writer discussed this with [redacted] stated that it was his belief that the [redacted] of Government and [redacted] British Intelligence Service were clandestinely reading the contents of the American diplomatic pouches sent from Santiago, Chile, Lima, Peru, La Paz, Bolivia, Quito, Ecuador, and Bogota, Colombia. [redacted] stated that he suspected the English were doing this at Cali, Colombia, which is located on the main West Coast International route of an American [redacted]

(U)

United States Ambassador Norman Armour, Buenos Aires, Argentina, stated to the writer that during World War I he was stationed at the American Embassy in Paris, France, and that during that war [redacted] United States were actual Allies of the English, the American Embassy in Paris learned that all the diplomatic mail was being intercepted and read by the British.

(U)

~~SECRET~~

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Declassify on: OADR
8-255937

518
Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

Page 2

Mr. Armour stated that he learned subsequently that when the mail bag was physically intercepted by the British representative, he would open it in the presence of a stenographer and as he removed each piece of mail from the pouch he would dictate to the stenographer the exact description of the position and place in the bag where the piece of mail was located and would further describe the condition of the envelope and all other surrounding details. This operation was repeated with the removal of each piece of mail. After the mail had been clandestinely opened and copied where necessary the stenographer's transcript of the conditions of the mail would be used in replacing all the mail back into the pouch. ~~(S)~~ (U)

Ambassador Armour advised writer that he suspected that the British Government was again reading the contents of the American diplomatic pouches and that this was being done in Trinidad where South America's East Coast mail remained over night between planes. ~~(S)~~ (U)

In addition to the foregoing, during the writer's survey of Latin America, he was advised at Santiago, Chile, that the American State Department had promulgated a regulation to all American missions that they were no longer permitted to forward mail marked "Strictly Confidential" through diplomatic pouches. The new rule for such "Strictly Confidential" mail is that it is to be forwarded to the State Department at Washington through the medium of a courier. The State Department has recently instituted an airplane courier service throughout Latin America. ~~(S)~~ (U)

RECOMMENDATION

The writer has discussed this matter with Bogota, Colombia, in a very short while. [redacted] was advised that he should make very discreet inquiries at Cali, Colombia, as to whether or not the British Intelligence Service is intercepting and reading American diplomatic mail at that point or whether the British are making arrangements to have the mail shipped there from Trinidad before its entrance into the United States. ~~(S)~~ (U)

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Egan

Mr. Gurnea

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Holloman

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

[redacted] is making continual discreet efforts to determine whether or not the British Intelligence officials at Guayaquil, Ecuador, are intercepting and reading American diplomatic mail at that point. ~~(S)~~ (U)

Respectfully,

~~SECRET~~

65-41647-812
RETURN DIRECTLY TO SIS DIVISION

812
ADDENDUM - April 17, 1942

Page 3

Every effort is being made to determine definitely whether the British are or are not opening American diplomatic pouches to examine mail. ~~(S)~~ (U)

It will be recalled that rumors and suspicions of this kind have arisen in the past, but no definite proof or evidence of any kind whatsoever has been obtained. (U)

Our suspicions have been previously communicated informally to the State Department, and it is believed that a formal communication would result in the State Department's formally requiring the Bureau to more or less "put up," which we cannot do for lack of evidence or specific information. [It will be recalled that we have obtained several photostatic copies of communications from American consular officials in South America, addressed to the State Department, Washington, D. C., from these apparently having been intercepted. We traced each one back promptly through the State Department and determined that in each instance the communication in question was dispatched by open mail through a British control point.] ~~(S)~~ (U)

b7D

With regard to the fourth paragraph on page 1 of the above memorandum, it will, of course, be noted that the material intercepted by the British from and an undercover agent was transmitted by open mail through British control points, all of which mail is intercepted and censored by the British. ~~(S)~~ (U)

You will be further advised concerning additional developments in connection with this matter. (U)

(U)
Respectfully,

C. H. Carson

65-4-1-1012

EAT:DS

March 10, 1942

THE DIRECTOR

Air mail letters are being written today to American Ambassadors and Ministers in the Latin American Republics, instructing them that the privilege of the diplomatic pouch is to be extended without question, without censorship and without knowledge of the contents on the part of the Ambassadors to representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation desiring to use those pouches to transmit communications to Washington. The Bureau will be advised telephonically when the letters, all of which have been typed, are signed by Assistant Secretary of State Shaw, and in the meanwhile we are preparing appropriate notification to our SIS people.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

CC- Mr. Ladd

RECORDED

62-48, 11-811
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 1 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DATE 08-20-2010

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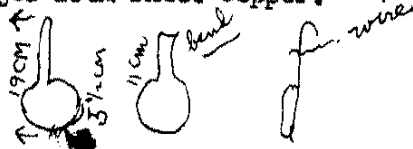
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MEMORANDUM

Re: ~~Electroplating of~~
Sealing Devices.

From plaster to graphited wax disc: Beeswax 92%, Turpentine 4%, Graphite 4%. Melt wax and graphite at 80° centigrade and add turpentine. Stir and cast into disc about 3/8" or 1/2" thick of suitable size. Moisten molds before pouring to prevent sticking.

Make Banjos from sheet copper:



Solder 1/2" deep rings of copper onto copper disc to hold wax discs.

The wax disc then placed in banjo. The contact arms are pressed into the surface of the wax and fixed with a screw and nut. The whole surface is treated with graphite - using softest possible brush. Plaster cast is also treated with graphite to prevent sticking.

The surface of the wax is then gently warmed (but not melted) and the plaster placed against it. Plaster and wax are now placed under an embossing press as used by die sinkers. Pressure is applied until plaster is forced into wax. Allow wax surface to harden and then remove plaster.

The wax disc with impression is again dusted with graphite. The banjo and all parts of wax where plating is not desired are coated with melted beeswax (no graphite).

Chemically deposit a copper covering before placing in bath - i. e., cover surface with copper sulphate solution (20%) and sprinkle reduced iron powder on it. Stir with soft brush for few minutes and wash off.

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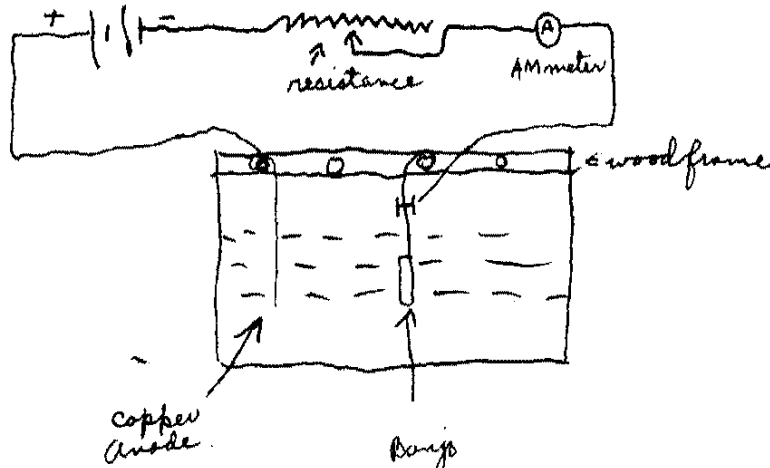
DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: Glass tank 12" x 8" x 8" brass rods across top with connectors at each end (hang banjos on these). The acid copper sulphate electro typing bath as follows: Copper sulphate 212 grams - potash alum 12.5 grams - concentrated sulphuric acid 31 cc. plus water - 1 litre.

File
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65-48647-110

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Two 2-volt cells are used and a resistance to regulate current.



Initial current should be low to assure fine deposit. Suggest 0.3 amp. per square inch of plating surface until first covering is obtained (usually about 1/2 hour). Then increase to as much as 1.0 amp. per square inch. In two hours one should have a copper shell of sufficient thickness - but may continue if necessary.

Remove banjo and wash well. Remove copper shell and dry. Tin the back with solder. Trim shell to fit one of a series of holes in a 3/8" iron plate. Place shell at bottom of hole ready to back with lead. Pour in Stereotype metal. Suspend screw with head filed square and include in backing. Trim metal and polish seal thoroughly. To remove wax - treat seal with boiling methylated spirit or carbon tetrachloride. Rub seal with water and rouge and brush briskly with dry rouge powder. Finish polishing with plate powder and a clean brush. Screw a rubber stamp handle on the protruding screw. Number the seal and handle with a serial number.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

SJD:CSH

February 20, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. POMEROY

PET

On February 18th SAC Morris called from St. Louis and stated that Mrs. Key had informed him that the mail which she had been receiving from her husband had been opened. I inquired of Morris if there was any information in this mail of importance, and he stated it was only personal mail. He also informed that there was no indication on the outside of the mail to indicate that it had been opened and censored by an official source, but that the mail itself indicated that it had been tampered with. He stated he thought he ought to call the Bureau and report this matter.

Respectfully,

S. J. Drayton

S. J. Drayton

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2348

Continuity of Communication

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

JD:DAJ

February 7, 1941

MEMORANDUM OF MR. FORBETH

PET

RE: ~~X~~ MEMBERSHIP OF SIS MAIL

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Two letters were received from Confidential Informant SIS #45 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, dated January 13 and January 22, 1941, which had been opened by Examiner 41, presumably at Trinidad.

These two letters contained no information of a strictly confidential nature. They were addressed to Mr. L. E. Moore, Post Office Box 303, Station D, 11th Street and Fourth Avenue, New York City, New York.

Another letter was also received from SIS #45 in the same mail dated January 31, 1941, containing his expense account, which letter had not been censored.

The above three envelopes are attached.

Respectfully,

S. J. Drexton
S. J. Drexton

RECORDED & INDEXED

65-48647-X2

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Open 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

Handwritten signature/initials

200

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
1300 Biscayne Building
MIAMI, FLORIDA

February 6, 1941

[Handwritten initials]

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

*outgoing not
located*

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter of January 24, 1941 advising of the receipt of a piece of mail addressed to Post Office Box 2292 which mail was opened when received at the Bureau and desired to be advised if the mail had been opened in this office or was open at the time it was taken from the Post Office box.

The Bureau is advised that this envelope was inadvertently opened by the writer and when it was discovered that the matter therein pertained to the Bureau, it was forwarded to the Bureau for appropriate action.

Very truly yours,

PW:jb

PERCY WYLY, II *off duty*
Special Agent in Charge

65-48647-X7

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DATE 08-20-2010

Security of Confidentiality

[Stamp]

ral Bureau of Investigati
United States Department of Justice
1308 Masonic Temple Bldg.,
New Orleans, La.
Nov. 16, 1940.

~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Att'n: Mr. P. E. Foxworth.

Dear Sir:

I am attaching an airmail letter addressed to Mr. Samuel E. Gardner, Box 579, New Orleans, La., which the Bureau will note has been opened.

This letter was removed from Box 579 in this condition, but apparently it has not been tampered with, and the fact that it was open, is due to the glue drying, together with the fact that this type of tissue envelope does not hold glue very well.

Very truly yours,

A. C. Rutzen
A. C. Rutzen,
Special Agent in Charge.

ACR/WH

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DATE 08-20-2010

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECORDED

HOW TO USE THE SPECIAL GUM.

Place in the small beaker approximately equal volumes of the two solutions if anything, take slightly less of the thin solution. Mix thoroughly with the glass rod then apply with the rod to the surface which is to be stuck, using only a thin film of liquid. Press the surfaces together and iron with the electric iron at "silk heat". The gum will then solidify for ever.

NOTES.

1. The two solutions last for ever if kept separately in well stoppered bottles, when mixed the mixture will keep fluid for about half an hour at room temperature. It solidifies almost instantaneously when heated. It is therefore important to make sure that the solutions do not become mixed with each other in the bottles, as for instance might happen if a dirty rod is used. Also only just enough for the job on hand should be mixed each time as the stuff left over is always wasted.
2. The original gum on envelopes must always be removed first from all the flaps. It is a good plan to have ready a stock of envelopes with the lower flaps already stuck down with the special gum. Should you be doing a job which takes more than 30 minutes to finish then you will have to make up more than one small batch of mixture. As soon as the gum has begun to solidify in the beaker it's adhesive properties are lost.
3. The mixture is quite soluble in water before ironing. Any extra which has squeezed from the envelope flaps can be blotted off or washed away with water. After ironing, touching up becomes practically impossible owing to the complete insolubility in all solvents of the hardened gum.
4. You should be careful to withdraw the thick solution out of the bottle with a glass rod without touching the ground neck. If the solution gets between the stopper and neck you will have a lot of trouble with the stopper sticking.

Scientific & Testing Department

March 10th, 1941.

Imperial Censorship
Hamilton
Bermuda.

65-48647-X

RECEIVED BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAR 16 1944

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-48647-X

CAA:MLJ

January 28, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

At the request of Mr. Drayton an envelope addressed to Mr. Sam Eldredge, Post Office Box 482, Grand Central Annex, New York, New York, mailed in Brasil via Pan Air was examined to determine whether the envelope had been previously opened.

There appears to be clear evidence that the envelope has been opened previous to the present opening which was made with a knife on the right-hand edge. This opening is revealed in the lower flap which has been reglued. This regluing was not duplicated on the top flap the one which is sealed by the envelope user. The top flap appeared to be fastened either by the original adhesive or by paste of a different character from the mucilage used on the bottom flap. There is no way of ascertaining positively whether the upper flap was also open. The envelope was cut open on the other edge in order to complete the examination. At this time there were found adhering to the inner surface under the top flap and extending partly over that flap and partly over the upper portion of the envelope to which the top flap is fastened, two comparatively large pieces of thin white tissue paper which apparently became stuck to the inside of the envelope and were torn off when the recipient removed the contents. If this is so these two pieces of white paper were part of the contents of the envelope which became stuck to the top flap because of the excess mucilage used to fasten the lower flap when it was revealed.

The envelope was opened primarily to enable an examination of the edge adjacent to the place where it was opened by the recipient (as well as to examine the back of the flap). This was done because there exists next to this cut two creases in the paper, one of which could be caused by the process

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

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DATE 08-20-2010

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 28 1941 A.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Page two.

of repairing envelopes called chawfering. This process is used by the British in connection with censoring activities. If an envelope has been opened by cutting on one end the flap is removed and the cut flap is returned to the main body of the envelope by splitting the paper on the flap end on the body and sticking the two together with paste and with pressure so that at this point the completed job resembles the regular machine fold in the paper. This is a very delicate job requiring expert techniques and is usually not attempted on envelopes with a printed background like air mail envelopes because of the necessity of matching the printing. In connection with the chawfering operation it is necessary to reset the flaps so that one edge is actually shorter than the other. The flaps on this envelope are actually shorter on one edge than the other and the top flap is also displaced in position.

The examiner reports that microscopic examination of the mark on the edge of the envelope shows a strong resemblance to chawfering although the printing matches with great fidelity. The usual chawfering is comparatively easy to detect by microscopic examination because sufficient care is not taken in the work which is not performed under a microscope. The examiner called attention of another examiner to the appearance of the edge under the microscope and the condition observed by the first examiner was not as clear to him. The machine fold such as that on the bottom of this envelope very closely resembles chawfering and this is expertly done.

Regardless of the possibility of repairing the envelope by chawfering on the right-hand edge there is no question but the envelope has been opened on the flap and for this reason further examination of the edge was abandoned.

The envelope is returned herewith.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

EPC:AF

November 7, 1940

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: British Censorship.
Secret Inks (80-604).
Cryptography (80-612).

During the visit last week of E. S. Herbert, Director of Censorship of Great Britain, C. G. des Graz, Chief of the Postal Censorship, both coming under the Ministry of Information, and Captain H. Montgomery Hyde of the British War Office, presently assigned to censorship duty, I conferred at considerable length with Captain Hyde on matters of a Laboratory nature. Captain Hyde is presently in charge of the censorship work in Bermuda and although not a technical man is greatly interested in the technical phases of censorship and has on his staff people who handle the same. During these conferences, we were joined at times by Messrs. Pickering, Appel, and Napier of the Laboratory, as well as Mr. Martin of my office.

During these conferences we discussed at considerable length the process known as chamfering, which is the invisible mending of a torn or mutilated document. It sometimes happens in censorship that an envelope is slit open or torn open for censorship purposes and after opening the contents are found to be of such nature that it is considered preferable to forward the document if possible without any indications thereon that it has been opened. This is accomplished by a process called chamfering, according to Captain Hyde. He states that women workers are the most skilled at this, superior to men. As far as we could gather, the torn edges are carefully beveled with a special knife and then they are pressed together without the use of gum or glue, the fibres being worked together by pressure. The repair must be along a perfect line so that it will not be discernible. Wherever possible, the envelope is refolded so that the repair is better hidden in a fold. This latter procedure is particularly applicable when the envelope was slit along an

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 16 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

80-604-76

Memo Mr. Ladd
Page 2

Captain Hyde's explanation was not sufficiently technical to permit us to undertake a test of the process. Captain Hyde, however, offered to have his technicians draw up detailed instructions and a description of the instruments used. He further agreed to send us samples of completed chamfering. For this purpose, we prepared for him several samples of torn envelopes. He will have these repaired in Bermuda and returned to the FBI.

An extended discussion was had concerning the relative merits of steam and cold humid treatments for the opening of gummed envelopes. There was also discussed a third method of dry opening, by means of a probing instrument. The only new development brought forth in this discussion was the information furnished by Captain Hyde that Japanese in their more important documents are using a special sealing gum which contains egg yolk. When any dampness sufficient to release the seal reaches the egg yolk it immediately runs thus giving vivid evidence that the envelope has been tampered with. In such situations it was agreed that dry probing was the only possible means of opening such a seal. We in the Laboratory furnished Captain Hyde with the formula and procedure for detecting previous efforts at dampening. This is known as the liquid iodine test.

With regard to codes and ciphers we were informed by Captain Hyde that the Censorship Bureau of the Ministry of Information is equipped to handle some codes and ciphers. These, however, are practically limited to those occasional ones discovered in letters or telegrams passing between individual foreign agents. They usually have no occasion to attempt to decode the more difficult diplomatic codes. As a matter of fact if they are unable to solve their own codes and ciphers they are then referred to the cryptanalysis section of the Foreign Office in London. This latter is the highly developed cryptographic section of the British Government which is equipped to handle foreign and diplomatic codes and ciphers. Captain Hyde was unable to state whether that latter section was able to break the German diplomatic code but it was his impression they have not been so able, to date.

Secret inks and their detection are handled by chemists of the censorship who are directly under Head Chemist S. W. Collins. Collins is an old hand at this work, and prominent in the last

Memo Mr. Ladd
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World War and is referred to in Yardley's American book "The Black Chamber". Earlier discussions between des Graz and myself on secret inks have since been referred to Collins by des Graz. A message was brought back that Collins was in full accord with the FBI Laboratory's views on secret inks and had no additional suggestions to offer. However, in a subsequent discussion Mr. Herbert informed me in a highly confidential manner that they had discovered that foreign secret agents dropped by plane at night with parachutes and subsequently captured were found to have on their person a new form of secret ink made up from the chemical "Pyramidon". I immediately arranged for the purchase of a sample of "Pyramidon" and Mr. Pickering is working with it in the Laboratory and seeking its complementary detector.

We discussed packages, strings, and seals. The only new development was the statement by Captain Hyde that wherever possible strings and wrappings should be slipped off packages without being untied and without breaking any more seals on the package than necessary. Where it is necessary to break seals and untie the string we were all in accord on methods.

I requested Captain Hyde to furnish a sample of the "prisoners' paper", which is a special paper considered not receptive to secret inks and which is furnished by the Government to internees and prisoners for correspondence purposes.

Captain Hyde was particularly interested in the development of latent fingerprints on paper--the use of a special lamp for reading indented writing--and methods of photographing carbon paper to bring out the impressions thereon--and the use of contact photographic printers for rapid photostating of documents. All these things were shown to him. Captain Hyde was also particularly interested in sound recording. I showed him the type of disc recorder (the Presto type) used by the Bureau. He stated he has immediate need for a sound recorder in Bermuda and was planning the purchase of one in New York to carry back with him. He stated he has immediate need for a sound recorder in Bermuda and was planning the purchase of one in New York to carry back with him. He stated he had already looked at some in New York and was considering the purchase of one cheaper than that used by the Bureau. In this connection, I was very much interested when reading the censorship manual which was furnished the Director by these three gentlemen that as part of the regular censorship in England they tap the telephones of citizens (unknown to them) for the purpose of getting a cross-section of public opinion. The manual states " - - six teams

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of censors who move from town to town and cut in on both local trunk lines and incoming toll lines into that town listen at random and make precis of the conversation heard for the purpose of summarizing public opinion - state of the morale - rumor mongering, etc."

During these conversations I was also informed that the present censorship staff at Bermuda has increased to 500 persons, that they have taken over a whole resort hotel. Many of these employees are women and many of them have been brought over from London. It was further inferred that the censorship staff would be rapidly increased to 1,000 and possibly 2,000 persons. These gentlemen again urged that an FBI representative visit Bermuda and make a study of censorship organization and their method of procedure.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey.

SEP:EG

July 31, 1940

~~65-20304-1~~

Special Agent in Charge
Boston, Massachusetts

Re:

Espionage

b6
b7C

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above-entitled matter and transmitted by your communication dated July 14, 1940.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ENCLOSURE
Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 3 1940

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 08-20-2010

65-48647-X-20	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUL 16 1944	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SFP:EG

Laboratory Report

July 31, 1940

File #65-22304-1

b6
b7C

Re:

Espionage

Lab. #36705
36620

Examination requested by : Boston

Reference : Letter 7/14/40

Examination requested : Document - Chemical (General Chemical)

Specimens :

65-22304-1 Q1. One bottle of Diethyl Phthalate.

Result of examination:

1
1
7

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEP:DMS
80-612

October 13, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NATHAN.

Re: Instruction in Cryptography.
Opening and Resealing Envelopes.

On October 11, 1938 the course of instruction in cryptography was continued those present being Messrs. Blackburn, Major and Pickering. The instruction continued with information relative to the lecture on codes and ciphers given in the various training schools. At this time it was suggested that those taking the course read both "Cryptography" by Lange, and "The American Black Chamber" by Yardley, in order to get a background of various individual types of ciphers about which questions might be asked in class. Some instruction in the use of code books was also given for use in the lectures.

Some experimental work has been carried out in connection with the possibility of opening envelopes and resealing them without leaving evidence of the operation. It was found that the steaming process which is ordinarily used in this connection was very apt to leave the flap of the envelope in a warped condition. Upon resealing the envelope there usually remains indication that the envelope had been tampered with. Various methods were tried to avert this and it was finally found that if the envelopes were placed inside of a jar in the bottom of which was some water and allowed to stand overnight the flap could be easily opened and showed no trace of warping.

Inasmuch as the time element is usually important in such types of work efforts were made to reduce the length of time necessary for the moisture to soften up the paper. It was found that if the envelope were put in a covered jar in the bottom of which was some water which had been warmed to about 40 degrees Centigrade and then the air pumped out of the jar, the time could be reduced to a little over two hours. Additional work is planned in an attempt to reduce this time limit. When the envelope is resealed best results were found when another envelope was used in order to supply the necessary adhesive to seal the flap. The adhesive on the flap of the second

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

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Page two
Memorandum for Mr. Nathan
October 13, 1938.

envelope would be moistened and rubbed on the flap of the first envelope after which the flap was resealed. It was found that if mucilage were directly applied to the flap it usually resulted in there being too much adhesive present and the evidence thereof became niticeable.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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